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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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75¢

CCC chair: If an IPI extension is coming, it needs to be now

Commonwealth Casino Commission meets with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC during last Thursday's monthly commission meeting.
ERWIN ENCINARES

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Casino Commission chair Juan Sablan told executives of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC last Thursday that if the casino license agreement is to be amended, it needs to be done as soon as possible.

At issue is the deadline for the completion of the construction of the Imperial Pacific Resort. Right now, it is set at Aug. 31, 2018, which is about five months from now.

During Thursday's commission meeting with IPI, Sablan stated that if there is to be an amendment to extend the deadline, then it should be done now.

After several questions directed toward Pacific Rim Constructors Inc. president Keith Stewart, Sablan

See CCC on Page 4

Murkowski to lead codel to NMI

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A U.S. senator took up Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' invitation to visit the CNMI as discussions on the CNMI worker transition period continue on the U.S. Senate floor.

In a social media post over the weekend, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres confirmed that U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski will be leading a congressional delegation to visit the CNMI this month.

Murkowski

Murkowski led the bipartisan, bicameral working group composed of several key U.S. congressmen as well as other officials such as Delegate Gregorio

See MURKOWSKI on Page 4

DEA: Sablan admits to cooking 'ice'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

David Sablan, who allegedly threw a backpack that contained chemicals used in making crystal methamphetamine or "ice" during a police chase in Garapan, allegedly admitted to a police officer that he was trying to manufacture crystal meth using the "shake and bake" method.

See DEA on Page 4

Making the CNMI 'bloom'

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

A plan that got started five years ago to transform Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and promote the destination internationally by having the islands bedecked in flowers is finally

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LOCAL
Docomo Pacific moves to new headquarters in Guam.
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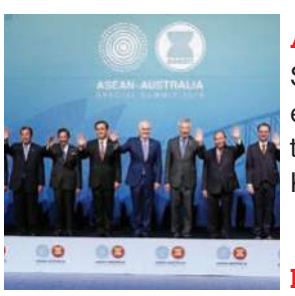

ASIA
Southeast Asia leaders support the sanctions against North Korea.
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LIFE & STYLE
Mark Hamill is the guest of honor at Dublin's St. Patrick's Day parade.
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Local

Shinoda hopes for blooming of sake culture

Japanese Consul Kinji Shinoda, far right, entertains Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Das Krishnan and his countryman, Osamu Nimura, during the sake tasting event last Wednesday.
ERWIN ENCINARES

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kinji Shinoda, the Japanese consul to the CNMI, hopes to promote an authentic sake culture in the CNMI during the two-day sake-tasting event held at his office at the Marina Heights building in Puerteo Rico.

In line with this, it is planned that there will be sake tasting at the upcoming Taste of the Marianas.

According to Shinoda, that would depend on the responses to the questionnaires handed out at the two-day sake tasting event. The tasting session last Wednesday was attended by members of the private sector while Thursday night's session was for government officials.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan Food and Beverage director Das Krishnan said that offering sake to tourists is a valid consideration.

"It was a good experience for us, as well as a good experience for hoteliers to see what they have," he said.

According to Krishnan, he and his assistant manager are already starting to think of possible food combinations that would go well with the different kinds of sake.

Sake, according to Shinoda, hails from several prefectures in Japan. Krishnan took particular notice to Dewazakura Dewanasato's Junmai sake, and Daiginjo Sansui's Daiginjo sake. Both sakes won gold and silver, respectively, in their particular categories at the 2016 International Wine Challenge.

Krishnan described both as "very easy on the palate" and went down well as cold drinks; he added that it might be good paired with a *teppanyaki* dinner.

Fiesta Resort's Osamu Nimura, the Managaha manager for food and beverage on the islet, fell for Zaku Kaizanittekisui's Junmai Daiginjo sake and Tokumo Koshu 2016's koshu sake. The latter won silver in the koshu category of the Japan Wine Competition 2017.

Shinoda thinks the sake tasting event went well. "Most of the people had a positive impression of the Japanese sake," he said. "I strongly hope that in the future they purchase in Japan the sake to serve in the hotels and for retail so that ordinary people can have a chance to taste Japanese sake."

Shinoda said this was a first step for the recognition of sake in the CNMI. He looks forward to sake becoming a fixture at the Taste of the Marianas.

14 Fellows added to PCF alumni list

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fourteen members of the Pacific Century Fellows Class of 2017 were awarded their graduation plaques Thursday at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

The Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter is a program established by the TanHoldings Corp. with the purpose of developing young leaders in the community.

According to PCF-Marianas Chapter president Jerry Tan, PCF is a program that builds important leadership skills.

The basics of the programs is that each PCF participant is given the opportunity to choose a field they want to educate themselves in like politics, tourism, etc. and they are mentored by professionals in their field of choice. After nine months in the PCF program, participants will have obtained skills they can incorporate in their lives and in their jobs.

Tan said the reason why he did not hesitate to kickstart the program in the CNMI when the idea was first brought to him is because he strongly believes that the Commonwealth's future depends on its young generation of leaders.

"In order to help the Commonwealth we need to groom our young leaders," he said.

The 2017 graduates of the program were Charlie Atalig, Jaclyn Michelle Atalig, Michael Camacho, Tania David, Fausia DelaCruz, Carleen Desebel, James Glenn, Elena Gersonde, Kirk Johns, Maria Krizia Mendoza, Monique Sablan, Mark Toves, Lannie Walker, and Tara White.

According to Sablan, she and her fellow graduates have a common passion to be the change they wanted to see on the islands, whether it is through their career, in their lifestyles, or in the community.

Sablan said she was able to pick up lifelong leadership skills she will surely use along her journey, and she also made lifelong friends through the program.

The program is open to the public for individuals ages 25 to 45. The program is to be applied for and individuals must undergo an interview process.

The program is an extension of the Pacific Century Fellows program started in Honolulu by former mayor Mufi Hannemann.

Hannemann said he is happy to see how much the program has grown on Saipan since it was started back in 2014.

Guma Hustisia to resume regular hours today

The Guma Hustisia has been closed since Friday, March 16. Regular business hours will resume today, March 19, 2018.

In a statement last week, it said a breakdown in the air-conditioning system will require substantial technical assistance and repair time, and the entire system will have to be shut down.

Regular business hours will remain in place for the Office of Adult Probation and Supervision located at the former RSAT/CRM building and courthouses on Rota and Tinian.

For additional information, contact Deanna M. Ogo at 236-9715 or deanna.manglona@justice.gov.mp or Patrick V. Diaz at 236-9765 or patrick.diaz@justice.gov.mp ***(PR)***

LOTTERY

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PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Proposed Plan
For
Marpi Point Field

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces that it will convene a meeting to engage public participation in its Proposed Plan to remediate the Marpi Point Field munitions response site in accordance with the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS). The Proposed Plan has been prepared to provide an overview of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) and munitions constituents (MC) detected at the former airfield, a description and evaluation of remedial alternatives to mitigate on-site MEC and MC hazards, and to present the preferred remedial alternative.

An Army Corps of Engineers representative will be available to receive your comments and questions on the Proposed Plan during a public meeting to be held on the date, time, and location stated below.

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2018
Meeting Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Meeting Location: American Memorial Park Visitor Center Theater

You may also submit written comments concerning the Proposed Plan to:

Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Honolulu District
Programs and Project Management Division
Environmental Programs Branch
Building 230
Attn: CEPOH-PP-E (Helene Takemoto)
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
Telephone: 808.835.4088
Fax: 808.835.4129
E-Mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil

Domestic violence charges vs woman dropped

Charges against a woman accused of punching her live-in boyfriend and running over his leg with a car during their argument at their home on Saipan has been dismissed at the request of the government.

The Office of the Attorney General may re-open the case in the future.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho dismissed the case against 26-year-old Pennie Lee Concepcion Cabrera last Friday at the request of assistant attorney general Teri C. Tenorio.

Tenorio said the government believes that mitigating circumstances to the benefit of Cabrera warrant further investigation.

Tenorio said that dismissing the matter without prejudice is in the interest of justice.

Cabrera was arrested recently for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and reckless driving.

The Office of the Public Defender, counsel for Cabrera, has accused OAG of turning the preliminary hearing in the case into a sham proceeding by calling in to testify a police detective who allegedly does not know anything about the matter.

Assistant public defender Heather M. Zona asked court to dismiss the case for the government's failure to meet its burden to establish probable cause to warrant the filing of the charges.

Cabrera allegedly punched her live-in boyfriend on the chest and reversed her car, running over his left leg during their argument over a text message at their residence on Saipan last Feb. 7. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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MAKING

From Page 1

getting started.

And it's not just about flowers. Imagine glow-in-the dark pebbles. Instagram-friendly tourist spots. Native greenery that will play up the lushness and tropical nature of the CNMI. All of that and more in a project collectively known the "Flower Islands" concept.

The idea is to delight people not just during the day but also at night. The colors of the flowers will be bright during daytime, while pebbles that glow in the dark will be scattered around tourist sites like the Banzai Cliff that people can visit even at night.

Junichi Inada, managing director of WIN Landscape Planning & Design, outlined at the Marianas Visitors Authority membership meeting last Thursday the landscaping plans that will be executed soon. Inada's involvement with the project goes beyond plans as he wants to see the project through until it is achieved on all islands.

"Singapore has been very successful in making the garden city concept. The former prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew, wanted to promote lush greenery and clean environment to make life enjoyable for the people of Singapore. I worked with other people to execute Singapore's Gardens by the Bay and it is now one of the main attractions of Singapore," he said.

"The Marianas does not only have lush greenery but very beautiful flowers year-round. We want to enhance the surroundings using your cultural icons, your home-grown flowers," he added.

Tasi Tours president Masato Tezuka first came up with the "Flower Islands" concept five years ago, when the CNMI economy and tourism industry of Saipan were in difficult times. Tezuka, together with Inada, presented the idea to former governor Eloy S. Inos.

"We have this idea of making Saipan known as the Flower Islands. …There are so many islands around the world and, like the CNMI, they have beautiful oceans, with many activities and untouched nature. So I asked myself, how can Saipan stand out?" Tezuka asked.

"So the idea of maybe calling Saipan the Flower Islands would work, as there is no other island branded as Flower Islands in the world. The garden concept is nation building," he added.

Tezuka said that, although the concept was positively received, it did not materialize at once because Inos passed away and then Typhoon Soudelor happened.

"Last year, we had a meeting with a professional designer from Japan and the Marianas Visitors Authority, represented by managing director Chris Concepcion, and it was welcomed. We have expanded the intention of the project," he added.

Inada said the project will start on the sites that people see first when they come to the Marianas—the airports.

"We are starting at the airport, which currently looks functional. We believe flowers will enhance the surroundings, making it more inviting. After that, we will target the famous tourist sites on each island."

"We plan to put different flowers that will best suit every island. Boungavillas will be planted around the Saipan International Airport, blue *cratoxylum formosum* or tropical cherry flowers around the Tinian International Airport and red plumeria and hibiscus at the Rota International Airport," he added.

Aside from flowers, the project plans to add cultural structures such as latte stones. Glow-in-the-dark pebbles in blue will be scattered on walkways and plant paths to make tourist sites enticing to visit even at night.

"I am very glad that the project has been brought to life and, after years of waiting, the project is ripe for execution," Tezuka said. "We are looking forward to people seeing the difference, hopefully impress them and eventually get them involved in other projects."

Junichi Inada of WIN Landscape Planning & Design presents the Flower Island concept at the Marianas Visitors Authority general membership meeting on Thursday at Kensington Hotel Saipan.
BEA CABRERA

DEA

From Page 1

The "shake-and-bake" method in making crystal meth on Saipan recently came to light with the arrest of four men in connection with an alleged clandestine "ice" lab on the island.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration special agent Kirk F. Johns disclosed that a review of the purchase logs for a pharmacy showed that Sablan bought 1,968 milligrams of active pseudo-ephedrine last Jan. 13.

The U.S. Marshal served an arrest warrant on Sablan last Thursday after the DEA filed a criminal complaint charging him with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

In his affidavit in support of the criminal complaint, Johns said the investigation into the "shake-and-bake" method began last Oct. 15 when he was tipped off by a pharmacy employee to some buyers' suspicious purchase of cold medicine containing pseudo-ephedrine.

Johns said it was learned that when someone wants to buy medicine containing pseudo-ephedrine, they must provide an identification card. Each individual is limited to the purchase of 3.6 grams or 3,600 mg (active ingredient) per day, for a total of nine grams or 9,000 mg (active ingredient) per 30-day period.

Johns said that, last March 15 at 3:45am, a concerned citizen was awakened by a fire alarm within the JJ Building on Plumeria Avenue in Garapan.

JJ Building houses the Best Poker gameroom on the first floor and residential housing units on the second floor.

The citizen reviewed surveillance video and saw a man, later identified as Sablan, walking on the second floor balcony of the JJ Building. Johns said Sablan was seen walking downstairs to the ground floor.

The citizen checked the stairs and noticed a brown backpack sitting near the curb of Plumeria Avenue, not too far from the Best Poker entrance.

The citizen contacted the security guard of Best Poker who was inside the gaming establishment.

Upon entering the gameroom, the citizen saw Sablan and motioned the security guard to come outside.

Upon exiting Best Poker, Sablan followed the guard and the citizen and began asking what was going on with the bag.

At 4:07am, the citizen called 911 to report Sablan's suspicious activity.

Five minutes later, two police officers arrived at the scene and met with the citizen. A minute later, two other police officers arrived to assist.

One of the officers saw Sablan walking near the Noodle House Restaurant. As officers tried to approach Sablan, he then ran toward the American Memorial Park. One officer arrested Sablan in the jungle area of the American Memorial Park at 4:24am.

Johns said that when the officer was transporting Sablan to the Best Poker area, the suspect told him that he was trying to make "shake and bake."

Upon reaching the Best Poker area, the officer was approaching the brown backpack on the ground, but Sablan told him he might need Hazmat for that.

The officer picked up the backpack, placed it on the police car and unzipped one of the zippers.

A puff of white smoke came out, but the official initially thought it was just dust. But the officer, and the three other officers who were standing nearby, quickly started coughing. The four officers ultimately vomited, according to Johns.

The four officers were transported to the hospital, while Sablan was secured in a police vehicle.

At this time, the street was shut down to traffic and secured.

Johns said he, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Hazardous Material Unit, and members of the CNMI Drug Task Force responded to the scene.

Investigators saw a backpack on the sidewalk near the entrance to the Best Poker on Plumeria Avenue.

The second bag, a black Nike brand bag, was located about 65 feet north of the brown bag, also on the sidewalk.

Johns said a search of the brown bag revealed a Fiji water bottle with orange powdery substance inside and a green 2-liter bottle with a hose coming out its cap and emitting white smoke.

There was also a brown bottle with an amber liquid inside it, a white bottle labeled 100 percent lye, a pair of wire cutting pliers, two containers of lighter fluid, additional rubber hose, and an orange pill bottle with a white residue inside.

Investigators had the Hazmat Unit personnel take a representative sample of the amber liquid for analysis.

Johns said a search of the second bag revealed a container of salt, two pairs of pliers, an Energizer lithium battery, an air respirator, coffee filters, a blue funnel, and a white towel.

Johns said Sablan stated that the stuff in the brown bag was not his and that he was not sure what was in it. Sablan identified the person who allegedly asked him to pick up the backpack.

Sablan said he had picked up the bag on the second floor balcony above the Best Poker for a friend.

When asked why he placed the backpack on the ground, Sablan replied that he did not want to take it inside the establishment.

Sablan admitted that the other Nike bag was his and that he must have dropped it when either walking away from or running from the police.

Johns said at first Sablan stated he did not know anything about the battery or salt inside the Nike bag, but later admitted he bought the items for his friend to cook "ice."

Sablan said his friend would give him some "ice" in exchange for purchasing the items.

Asked why he would be on the pseudoephedrine purchase logs, Sablan allegedly stated that from time to time he has a stuffed up nose congestion and that it is a hereditary problem.

Johns said following the removal of the chemicals from the public area, DPS and Hazmat Unit opened the street of both vehicular and foot traffic.

CCC

From Page 1

himself sees the need for an amendment, especially with a new company involved with the construction of the casino.

"I definitely see an amendment coming up. That has to be done as soon as possible," said Sablan.

The commission met with IPI's new main contractor, Pacific Rim, for the first time last week. Stewart, who attended the commission meeting, was bombarded with questions about the construction timelines.

One of several questions that were repeatedly raised in previous commission meetings was the ability to meet the targeted deadline of Aug. 31, 2018.

Stewart said Thursday that he remains uncomfortable about setting expectation, given the labor problems facing the CNMI; however, he stated that he would be in a more comfortable position to set dates 60 days from now.

Sablan said the commission could not wait for 60 more days to know if IPR would be able to meet its deadline.

Stewart told the commissioners: "We have spoken with IPI as recently as [Wednesday] in terms of dates that may be suggested…but that is something that we need to work through more internally…At this time, I cannot comment anything more."

Casino commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero told Stewart that since the request for amendment would probably be submitted soon, he believes it would be proper for Pacific Rim to submit its initial assessment of the facility.

Deleon Guerrero added that Pacific Rim should use the current construction status of IPR and their own expectations on when they could complete the structure to make a "reasonable and realistic deadline."

"Part of the problem of trying to [shorten the deadline] is that you run the risk of accidents," he said. "If there is a request [to extend the deadline], we are interested to see how your assessment in terms of [why, and how long the extension] is needed," said Deleon Guerrero.

IPI general counsel Philip Tydingco told the commissioners at the February casino commission meeting that he would be recommending to IPI to request for a deadline extension in the form of an amendment to the CLA.

While specific details were not discussed, Tydingco reiterated that the point of the extension is to ensure that completion is achieved through a safe manner.

MURKOWSKI

From Page 1

Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and Torres in hammering out the CW extension bill, S. 2325.

Murkowski chairs the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, which just recently adopted her bill, S. 2325, with an amendment in the form of a substitute.

S. 2325 extends the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program from 2019 to 2029. That includes extending other programs such as the CW program, which is a non-immigrant visa permit tailored for the CNMI, and the E-2C investor program.

Majority of the current workforce consists of CW permit holders.

"I am grateful that she has told me she will be leading a congressional delegation to come here on March 27. I look forward to welcoming her and the delegation to the CNMI soon," said Torres in the social media post.

In the same post, Torres explained that the invitation is intended to give Murkowski a "first-hand view of the economy" they are trying to build for the "community and the challenges we are facing toward even greater levels of progress.

Torres told *Saipan Tribune* last Feb. 28 that he invited Murkowski and members of her committee to visit the CNMI so she could personally observe the challenges and progresses made in the Commonwealth.

"[The committee] can look into how to better our system here when decisions are made in Washington, D.C.," Torres had said.

The last time a congressional delegation visited the CNMI was last year, when the group visited Rota.

Man gets 4.5 years for sex assault of a girl

A 66-year-old retiree was sentenced to four years and six months in prison for sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl on Rota.

Superior Court Associate Judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced Manases Masga Manglona Sr. to five years imprisonment, all suspended except for four years and six months, for sexual assault in the second degree.

Manglona will serve the sentence without the possibility of parole. He was given credit for 554 days of time served.

There will be another hearing on April 19, 2018, on Manglona's motion to convert up to one year and six months of his prison term to home confinement.

After completing his jail term, Manglona will be placed on 10 years of probation. He shall have no unsupervised contact with minors, among other conditions.

Naraja held the sentencing hearing on Rota last Feb. 23. He issued the written judgment last Friday.

Although he described Manglona's crime as extremely serious and egregious, Naraja said that Manglona is not completely without hope.

Therefore, he said, Manglona's probation will allow him to rebuild his life, which he laid waste by committing this terrible crime.

Assistant attorney general Teri C. Tenorio had recommended a maximum prison sentence of five years and six months, without the possibility of parole.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski recommended a sentence of two years imprisonment with the rest suspended, along with probation and corresponding conditions. Dominksi said Manglona did not hold down the victim or threaten her in any way, and that he never penetrated her.

"There were no physical injuries," Dominski said.

According to the plea deal, Manglona touched the girl's genitals in July 2016. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Surveillance camera catches 2 burglarizing PIC office

A surveillance camera allegedly caught on tape a jobless 32-year-old man and a male juvenile opening several lockers at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio and stealing two iPhones last March 8.

Edwin Omar was arrested and taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho last Friday for a bail hearing on charges of burglary and theft and criminal mischief. A $15,000 cash bail was imposed on Omar. Preliminary hearing will be on March 22 at 1:30pm.

A police detective also recognized the juvenile suspect because of the minor's previous criminal records involving theft cases. The case against the juvenile has been sealed.

Police said that Omar confessed after his arrest, disclosing that his juvenile companion smashed the two iPhones because he could not open the password lock.

The first victim lost his pink iPhone 6S worth $450, a silver 18-inch chain 925 necklace valued at $150, and his driver's license. The second victim lost his black iPhone 5 worth $400.

Police responded to a burglary and theft incident at PIC last March 9 and met a security guard, who showed the surveillance footage of two males burglarizing lockers at the SEA office.

The officer viewed the footage and immediately identified Omar and the juvenile.

Later that day, the officer met with Omar and invited him to the Department of Public Safety's police substation in Chalan Kanoa.

Omar allegedly said it was the juvenile's idea to break into cars at PIC to make some money.

Omar said they only managed to enter one car as all were locked, but did not get anything.

Omar said they went behind the PIC building, where he acted as a lookout as his juvenile companion started going through the lockers at SEA office. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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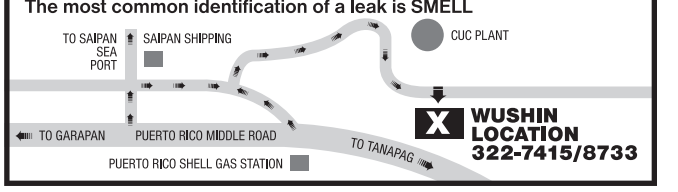

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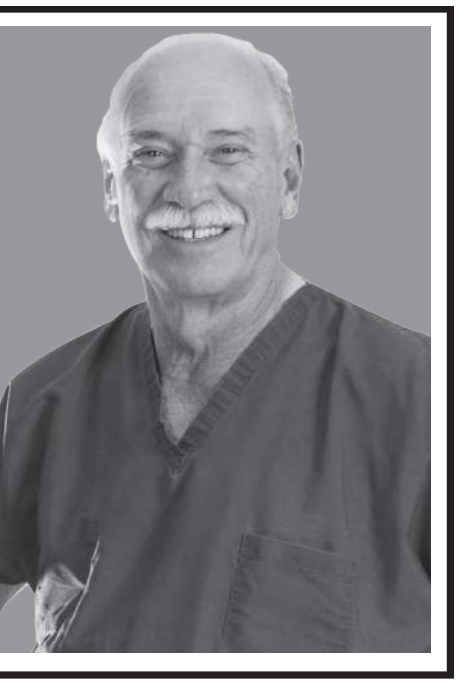
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Docomo Pacific opens new headquarters in Tamuning

TAMUNING, Guam—Docomo Pacific begins a new chapter with the opening of the Docomo Pacific headquarters in the former Ben Franklin building. The public opening was commemorated with a ribbon cutting ceremony and cocktail party on March 15.

The landmark building has been around for over 40 years and was vacant since 1999. In June 2016, a lease agreement was signed with MV Pangilinan Enterprises to move the Docomo Pacific offices to the former Ben Franklin building. Renovations began in October 2016 with Docomo Pacific's offices and flagship store relocating in December 2017.

Here are a few facts about the new Docomo Pacific headquarters:

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Docomo Pacific holds a ribbon cutting and public opening for the new Docomo Pacific headquarters in Tamuning, Guam on March 16. Pictured, from left, Katsuyuki Takagi, executive general manager, Global Business Division, NTT Docomo Inc.; Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio; Mark V. Pangilinan, MV Pangilinan Enterprises; Jonathan Kriegel, president and CEO, Docomo Pacific; and John Cruikshank, chief transformation officer, Docomo Pacific.

■ The five-story building encompasses 60,000 square feet, of which Docomo Pacific occupies 48,000 square feet.

■ The new configuration features a flagship store, 14 meeting rooms, six quiet rooms, three training rooms, two break rooms, and one lounge, which we call The Zone.

■ Each meeting room is equipped with the latest technology to enable collaboration: including Promethean interactive displays, Samsung Smart TVs, video conferencing technology, and MagicInfo content management software allowing Docomo Pacific to broadcast messages throughout the entire building.

■ The entire space is designed to inspire creativity, featuring idea walls, inspirational messages, and images by local artists.

■ The HQ features an open office concept, encouraging collaboration and increased productivity. Associates are encouraged to explore and use the space in ways that suit them best.

■ The HQ includes the newest Java Hut Café on the first floor, offering refreshments for customers, guests, and associates.

■ The parking lots feature solar panel lighting and up to 300 parking spaces.

■ The top floor, level 5, offers a spectacular view and is open for lease. The area measures 12,000 square feet and can be scaled for multiple tenants.

■ In order to bring the building up to 2018 code, the iconic escalators have been replaced with two passenger elevators. We've also added 40 new windows to the building.

"Many friends, including most of us at Docomo Pacific, have fond memories of the Ben Franklin building and Guam's first escalators," said Jonathan Kriegel, Docomo Pacific's president and CEO. "We are excited to call this special place our new home. Our new headquarters reflects our culture and personality; it inspires creativity and encourages collaboration. It is truly a place where we can be better together."

Docomo Pacific's general contractor is Future World Corp. and RIM Architects.

Docomo Pacific is a wholly owned subsidiary of NTT Docomo. It is headquartered in Tamuning Guam. ***(PR)***

'We the People Project' is now 'Equally American'

"We the People Project," a non-profit founded in 2013 to advance equality and civil rights in U.S. territories, recently changed its name to "Equally American."

"For the last five years we have been working to end the second-class status of Americans living in U.S. territories, so we wanted to have that mission reflected more directly in our name," said Neil Weare, a Yale Law School-trained civil rights attorney who grew up in Guam.

"Recent national attention to U.S. territories following hurricanes Maria and Irma and North Korea's nuclear threats to Guam create an unprecedented opportunity to make the case that it is time to treat the 4 million citizens living in U.S. territories as 'equally American,'" Weare added.

Equally American will carry over the non-profit's motto: "Equal rights, wherever you live." This reflects the belief that where you live or what your zip code is shouldn't determine your rights as a U.S. citizen.

The rebranding is part of a broader effort to expand the non-profit's advocacy for equality and civil rights in U.S. territories, both inside and outside the courtroom. In the coming weeks, Equally American will have some big announcements related to its work. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-18-015

LEASE OF OFFICE/WAREHOUSE SPACE FOR CUC POWER DIVISION TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION SECTION, SAIPAN CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of office & warehouse spaces for CUC Power Division, Transmission & Distribution Section in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space may be situated within or adjacent to the warehouse. The office & warehouse must have a loading dock and parking stalls that can accommodate over-sized heavy equipment (e. g. bucket trucks, augers and backhoes). Additionally, the proposed office space must conform to American Disabilities Act (ADA), OSHA and CNMI Zoning requirements.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-18-015, Lease of Office/Warehouse Space for CUC Power Division Transmission and Distribution Section, Saipan, CNMI"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **April 16, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. Proponents shall comply to all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 28, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC, Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Lee Lieto, CUC, Acting Power Division Manager via email address lee.lieto@cucgov.org, Adrian Reyes, CUC, Power Division Engineer via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-IFB-18-003

LOWER BASE SEWER PHASE 1 – LIFT STATION AND FORCEMAIN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of new installation of a lift station and forcemain, a new generator building, new and tapping into the existing forcemain. The work also includes the installation of air relief valves, gate valves, and asphalt pavement restoration, etc. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Economic Development Authority (USEDA) and the Department of Interior (USDOI). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEDA and USDOI.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 3rd, 2018 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend the Pre-Bid Conference and Site Visit.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-18-003, Lower Base Sewer Phase 1- Lift Station and Forcemain"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 18th, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 5th, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Assistant via email christie.sablan@cugov.org and to Travis Spaeth, CUC Project Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org .

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Proposals sought on federal energy program

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of the Interior is asking U.S. territories to provide proposals for its Energizing Insular Communities Program for fiscal year 2018 funding.

Those eligible to apply are local government entities, independent authorities, and educational institutions in the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The deadline is May 31.

"This program supports the Secretary and the President's priority to utilize our natural resources by ensuring American energy is available to meet security and economic needs," said U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary - Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech.

Island communities have a perennial struggle of high costs for fuel. Lowering energy costs to consumers is a key goal of these grants.

The Office of Insular Affairs will use the following criteria in evaluating proposals:

■ Estimated size of reduction in a territory's dependence on off-island fuels;

■ Estimated size of reduction in cost of electricity in the territory; and

■ Degree to which the proposal is identified and supported in the territory's Strategic Energy Plan and/or Energy Action Plan.

In addition, multiple project proposals may be submitted, ranging from a minimum of $150,000 per project to the full $2,811,000 expected to be available. Satisfactory Energizing Insular Communities funding proposals will:

■ provide a title, detailed narrative description, and budget for each proposed project;

■ provide a complete timeline that demonstrates the project can be accomplished within 24 months;

■ discuss the applicability of the above three factors to each proposed project; and

■ include the applicable SF-424 grant application forms.

Applications should be submitted through the grants.gov website. The grant may be found under Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance or CFDA number 15.875. For more information and instructions for applying for financial assistance from the OIA, refer to the OIA website. ***(PR)***

BOE to combat mental health issues

The Board of Education is working on responding to mental health issues in the Public School System by offering programs that would support students.

During the monthly BOE meeting last Wednesday, Board of Education chair Marylou Ada said the BOE is working on expanding the amount of programs now offered to aid in mental health issues in public schools.

"I know [students] are in great pain and we need to start paying attention to that," she said.

Ada said that students require a lot of support in what they want for their future. Lack of support could be a major factor for the pain that students today are feeling and bottling up and the BOE wants to offer that kind of support.

The BOE will focus on offering classes that would specialize in real life skills to educate students about what life has to offer after high school.

"One of the things that they have raised concerns are that they want to learn life skills, you know, when they get out of there," she said.

That includes learning how to file taxes, how to cook, how to sew their clothes, etc. to give them an advantage in life after high school and to remind troubled students that there is life after high school.

The BOE is also looking at expanding programs regarding sex education to guide students to make wise decisions and to hire more guidance counselors for students to reach out to. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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IPI fields support group at Saipan Marathon

Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility is being credited for its support and assistance at the recently held Saipan Marathon 2018.

"It was well coordinated and the group was very helpful. The runners were very impressed with how IPI's aid station provided assistance by passing out water, fruits, and sponges," said Ed Diaz, community project specialist of Marianas Visitors Authority.

The marathon, held on March 10, attracted a large number of international participants.

Imperial Pacific's CSR program deployed teams and set up aid stations and manpower that were spread throughout the marathon route.

"The team was very fast and helpful…I would recommend this team in other events as they were very supportive in every way they can," Diaz said. "The CSR team of IPI is a hardworking team and is very reliable. Thank you for your support and looking forward to next year's event." ***(PR)***

Imperial Pacific International, LLC, through its Corporate Social Responsibility team, set up one of its Saipan Marathon aid station during the early morning of March 10. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Imperial Pacific's CSR team provides water and fruits to marathon participants near the Chalan Pale Arnold-Lower Base intersection.

The Marianas Visitors Authority extended its appreciation to Imperial Pacific's Corporate Social Responsibility team. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marathon runners stop by one of the aid stations of IPI-CSR.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From water to fruits and sponges, to manpower assistance, IPI's Corporate Social Responsibility team went all out in supporting the Marianas Visitors Authority stage the Saipan Marathon 2018.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
IPI-CSR provided manpower resource at the Banzai Cliff turning point.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marathon runners stop at the Lower Base aid station of IPI-CSR.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
IPI-CSR's Alex Palacios guides a participant to one of its aid station.

Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter, left, poses with about 89 parents who attended the Green Meadow School capped its parent leadership summit last Feb. 26, 2018, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

GMS honors parent-leaders

Green Meadow School capped its parent leadership summit last Feb. 26, 2018, with an awarding ceremony at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter, who gave the inspirational message to about 89 parents who attended the ceremony, emphasized the role that parents play in their children's lives, saying that parenting is the most important job one will ever have if you have kids.

Hunter said that responsible parenthood ultimately determines the success and happiness of the nation. Parents, therefore, have the responsibility to raise upstanding individuals who will be the future leaders of the community. "You set an example for all of us," he said.

Hunter reminded the audience of another important role of parents—as teachers. The interest that parents take in the educational life of their child will determine their children's success.

He thanked the GMS administration and teachers for recognizing the importance of parents as leaders and partners in the educational experience of their children. He encouraged parents to be involved in every activity of the school.

The GMS administration, which recognizes the importance of parents as leaders, presented certificates of recognition and gift packs to the parent-leader awardees.

During the ceremony, GMS president/principal Milagros Songcuan, preschool assistant principal Bona Angeles, and elementary assistant principal Rosalie Habijan gave talks about having safe and happy homes. Parents indicated in the evaluation their interest in attending workshops on Common Sense Parenting, Motheread/Fatheread, and health and safety. ***(PR)***

PSS: 97 will get increase after certification

The 97 Public School System instructors who were reportedly excluded from the pay hike implemented in the Board of Education's approved compensation plan were actually on the list of those who are supposed to get pay raises but must first obtain the required credentials for them to get their well-deserved increase.

According to a statement provided by PSS, "the CNMI Public School System is stating for the record that all PSS personnel (including the 97 personnel) received a salary adjustment effective Oct. 1, 2017."

However, as PSS also mentions in its statement, the 97 personnel were still not awarded their pay increase, and will not be awarded their increases, until they become compliant with PSS' certification requirements.

The PSS statement was issued in response to a *Saipan Tribune* article, titled "Wage Hike skips 97 instructors," which quoted Lucretia Borja, the PSS Human Resources director, of reporting to the Board of Education that about 97 individuals from about 1,000 PSS instructors were excluded from the compensation pay that the board adopted at the October 2017 board meeting.

"Once these 97 personnel comply with the certification requirements and obtain a certification, then their salaries will be adjusted. The salary placement will be based on the certification level that they attained," said the PSS statement.

The 97 personnel include teachers, counselors, and instructors. Most of these personnel have been with PSS for about 10 to 15 years. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net • Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph Torres and Lt. Governor Victor Hocog, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its board meeting on **March 20, 2018 at 9 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board's office at Bldg. #1242, Pohnpei Ct., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (06/23/17)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairman's Report
  A. Welcoming of former Board Member, Gregorio Q. Castro
VII. Director's Report
  A. Financial Report
  B. 2018 Western Zone Interim Meeting – Honolulu, HI, April 5-7, 2018
  C. Letter from Fred A. Smith, P.E. – Application for Geoffrey G. Melchor
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
  B. Legislature
X. Old Business
  A. Draft Proposed Amendments to the Regulations for Engineers, Architects, Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects (For Board review & discussion)
XI. New Business
XII. Applications for Board's Review
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
  For Board Discussion:
  - 2018-001 (Architectural Applicant)
  - 2018-002 (COA Applicant)
  - 2018-003 (Civil Engineer Applicant)
  - 2018-004 (Electrical Engineer Applicant)
  - 2018-005 (COA Applicant)
XV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
  B. Adjournment of Meeting

Northern Marianas College

P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6858/6855 • Fax: (670) 235-3696
Website: http://www.marianas.edu

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcement No. 17-042
Position Title: Dean, Institutional Effectiveness
Department: Office of Institutional Effectiveness
Pay Level & Step: Executive Grade 02/Steps 01-02
Annual Salary: $60,000 - $62,100
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: July 31, 2017 **Closing Date:** Until Filled

Re-Announcement (Amendment) No. 17-044
Position Title: Specialty Instructor-Professor, Nursing
Department: Nursing
Pay Level & Step: 27/03, 29/01, 30/01, 31/01
Annual Salary: $46,265.08 - $53,604.43
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: February 09, 2018 **Closing Date:** Until Filled

Re-Announcement (Amendment) No. 17-052
Position Title: Department Chair, Languages & Humanities
Department: Languages & Humanities
Pay Level & Step: 36/Steps 01-02
Annual Salary: $51,528.98 - $53,332.49
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: February 09, 2018 **Closing Date:** Until Filled

Re-Announcement (Amendment) No. 18-002
Position Title: Director, Community Development Institute
Department: Community Development Institute
Pay Level & Step: 25/Steps 01-02
Annual Salary: $49,864.16 - $51,609.41
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: February 06, 2018 **Closing Date:** Until Filled

Announcement No. 18-008
Position Title: Vice President of Learning & Student Success
Department: Learning & Student Success
Annual Salary: $85,000
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: March 02, 2018 **Closing Date:** Until Filled

Announcement No. 18-010
Position Title: Dean of Learning & Student Success
Department: Learning & Student Success
Pay Level & Step: Executive Grade 02/Step 01
Annual Salary: $60,000
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: March 02, 2018 **Closing Date:** Until Filled

Announcement No. 18-009
Position Title: Vice President of Administration & Advancement
Department: Administration & Advancement
Annual Salary: $85,000
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: March 06, 2018 **Closing Date:** Until Filled

Applications must be submitted by 4:30 pm on the closing date. If there are no qualified applicants or the set of qualified applicants is deemed an insufficient pool, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of applications until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day. All salaries are subject to availability of funds. The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Stephen Hawking was a pioneering physicist and inspiration for overcoming adversity

Without question, Stephen Hawking, the legendary theoretical physicist who died March 14, 2018, at 76, was not only the world's best-known scientist but also one of the greatest scientific figures of all time.

Indeed, since 1979, he held the same professorial chair at Cambridge University once graced by Sir Isaac Newton—who, unlike his successor, never wrote a blockbuster international bestseller (1988's "A Brief History of Time") or appeared on "The Simpsons."

Before Hawking became a pop-culture icon, he had done groundbreaking work on Big Bang theory. He rocked the world of astrophysics in 1974 by discovering that black holes give off radiation—something no one believed at the time. Two of the landmark scientific discoveries of the last century were general relativity and quantum mechanics; in his time, Hawking made tremendous strides toward unifying the two fields, bringing physics tantalizingly close to achieving its Holy Grail.

These accomplishments alone would have earned Hawking a prominent and permanent place in the scientific pantheon. But the truly staggering thing about what Hawking accomplished is that he did it all while suffering from severe disability. At 21, he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis—Lou Gehrig's disease—and given no more than two years to live.

The neuromuscular disease progressed so rapidly that by 1974, when he made his first great breakthrough, Hawking was confined to a wheelchair by paralysis and spoke in a nearly impenetrable slur. In 1985, an emergency tracheotomy robbed him of a voice entirely. Hawking communicated through a computerized device. By the end, his only lifeline from his corporeal tomb was the twitch of his cheek.

And yet, look what the man did with his lot. Had the indefatigable Hawking not defied the astronomical odds set against him by doctors, the loss to science would have been incalculable. Hawking was an intellectual hero, to be sure, but he was no secular saint. (Ask his first wife, who angered Hawking's admirers by tarnishing his image with public tales from their tragic marriage.)

It can be difficult see greatness in your own time, but the sheer spiritual audacity of this man, who refused to allow the prison of his ruined body shackles his mind, stands as the scientific wonderworker's greatest miracle.

Aside from being known as a brilliant scientist, Hawking was also known for his humor and wit, a sardonic form that pulled no punches. In an interview with British television personality, Piers Morgan, he was asked about his IQ and responded, "People who boast about their IQ are losers." Another time, when discussing making contact with alien

See STEPHEN on Next Page

'Militant' anti-gay activist seeks to divide Catholic flock

By MARY SANCHEZ
The Kansas City Star

Mary Sanchez is an opinion-page columnist for The Kansas City Star*. Readers may write to her at: Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or via email at msanchez@kcstar.com.*

The music of Dan Schutte, a composer of Catholic hymns, is a staple at Visitation Parish in the heart of Kansas City.

The man himself is less welcome. The renowned composer has been disinvited from a scheduled April 28 concert. That alone is shocking, as the lyrical, soothing tones of his work are heard in churches nationwide.

The reasons for his disinvitation differ depending on whom you wish to believe. According to Bishop James V. Johnston Jr., who made the decision, to the bitter disappointment of many parishioners, it's a matter of paperwork, proper channels. Schutte, a former Jesuit priest, did not provide the sign-off (it's called a letter of suitability) from his home diocese. Instead, he provided a letter from the Chancellor of the University of San Francisco, where he is the composer in residence.

Others believe, and it's not a stretch to go there, that there's a different reason behind Schutte's disinvitation: He is the latest high-profile Catholic to be targeted by what can charitably called homophobic Catholic trolls.

Recent hit pieces produced by Church Militant, a Detroit-area right-wing Catholic news site, have labeled Schutte an "active homosexual," dishing out slams that his music is sappy and includes a "gay anthem" for LGBT Catholics.

Schutte doesn't comment on his personal life, as is his right. It's his ability to bring people closer to God through song, first honed as member of the group The St. Louis Jesuits, that is his gift.

A Visitation parishioner, a supporter of Schutte, reiterated an old saying among the faithful: "Those who sing, pray twice."

But the decision in Kansas City was elevated by Father James Martin, a popular Jesuit author and social media savant in his own right, who called the episode in a Facebook post "another triumph of hatred and homophobia in the Catholic Church." He's probably right, whether the bishop wants to see it that way, or not.

Martin, too, has also been the subject of this type of attack because he advocates for the Catholic Church to embrace gay and lesbian people of faith. He says he has been disinvited from appearances at various Catholic institutions after Church Militant followers badgered these hosts with phone calls and letters. In rescinding the invitations, some institutions have said they support Martin but want to avoid the controversy he's generating.

What a spineless, un-Christian stand.

Martin's book, "Building a Bridge: How the Catholic Church and the LGBT Community Can Enter into a Relationship of Respect, Compassion and Sensitivity," presses Catholics to have this very discussion. How will the faith, its conservative voices and its liberal ones, exist within a society that has thankfully largely moved beyond discriminating against gays and lesbians?

Indeed, many parishes practice a form of don't ask, don't tell, lest they irk conservative parishioners.

It's unfortunate that this controversy has landed at Visitation, greatly distressing many parishioners and the dedicated staff. They've asked for patience toward the bishop. And in statements they have reiterated "our commitment to all the members of our community, including gay and lesbian people"—a stand, they stress, that is not disputed by the bishop.

The concert will move, probably to an Episcopal church nearby.

All of this recalls the memorable words of Pope Francis in 2013: "If someone is gay and he searches for the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge?"

That statement did not challenge doctrine, but it prompted Catholics to ponder their views more closely.

Oddly enough, Church Militant is run by a man with more than a passing interest in the subject of sexual orientation. Michael Voris, a former news reporter, has admitted that in his 30s he "lived a life of live-in relationships with homosexual men." He made this admission in a piece fraught with regret. He details the distress of his mother, and how she prayed that God would cause her suffering if it would bring her straight son back.

She was diagnosed with stomach cancer and died a few years later. And Voris "pledged at her coffin that I would change."

So the man who is so dedicated to stirring scandal among fellow Catholics is calling out for their compassion as well. There's a Biblical lesson there, the very sort that this struggle with moral conscience asks of the faithful.

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Who in the world will defend democracy?

By STEIN RINGEN
Los Angeles Times

Stein Ringen is a visiting professor of political economy at King's College London and the author, most recently, of "The Perfect Dictatorship: China in the 21st Century. *He writes at ThatsDemocracy.com.*

In Beijing sits Xi Jinping, the Red Emperor. His project is to make totalitarianism work. Already in complete control at home, his global influence increases by the day. Other nations are falling over each other to pay tribute to the People's Republic.

Beijing does not impose its political model on others, but demands something else: silence. If you want to collaborate with China you are not allowed to say anything unfriendly. Crossing the regime risks retribution or expulsion.

After the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the human rights activist Liu Xiaobo, China cut ties with Norway for six years. To normalize relations again, Norway last year had to promise, in writing, to undertake no action that could disturb the new harmony. Since then, Norway's government—whose identity in the world rests on its championship of democracy and human rights—has had not a word to say about human rights abuses in China. Likewise, activist groups like Greenpeace, the World Wide Fund for Nature, and Conservation International stay silent on China's environmental destructions in the South China Sea.

In Moscow sits Vladimir Putin, a would-be modern-day Czar. He has less power to play with than his friends in Beijing. He can, however, make himself admired for promoting Russia's greatness up against a Western world that Russians are told is hostile to them.

Unlike Xi, Putin cannot aspire to domination, but he can be a spoiler and sow discord in democratic countries. This is done by using social media to whip up enmity among population groups and undermine trust and democracy. After the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, it took only an hour for a flurry of posts from Russia-linked Twitter accounts to set Americans against each other on the issue of gun control.

In Washington sits Donald Trump, absentee leader of the free world. Himself a man of authoritarian instinct, he seems to admire leaders like Xi and Putin for their virility of power. Rather than stand up to their assaults on the foundations of liberty, he directs his anger against those same foundations. His attacks on the news media have become normal. He uses lies as a political instrument. He chips away at respect for the rule of law.

In Brussels sits an uneasy coalition of European democracies, distracted by Brexit, populism and internal EU tensions. It is in stand-off with Russia, on which it depends for energy. Trade and capital top other interests on China. On separate occasions in 2017, Hungary withheld its signature from an EU letter denouncing torture of human rights lawyers, and Greece vetoed an EU statement to the United Nations Human Rights Council criticizing China's human rights record.

In the squeeze between dictatorship and democracy sit leaders of smaller countries, in bewilderment. Australia and New Zealand are on the forefront of China's campaign of influence in media, politics and universities. Their governments are struggling to respond, but are getting more indifference than support from friends.

In Central Europe, countries with as yet weak democratic cultures take inspiration more from authoritarianism than liberty. Poland has passed a law forbidding free discourse, even in scholarly history, of the Holocaust. In Hungary, Prime Minister Viktor Orban is forging a one-party soft autocracy where people are fearful of speaking their minds. The Czech Republic, mired in political cheating, is being described as "a democracy without democrats."

It is not surprising that liberty has enemies. The tragedy now is that the defense of liberty is absent where it should be vibrant. We are being let down by America, by the likes of Hungary and Poland, even by the European Union, even by Norway.

There is such a thing as the free world where citizens enjoy liberty, rule of law, and mutual trust. That world is now adrift in self-doubt. Democracies need to come together in defense of liberty, but they are not finding their voice. The European Union should lead but is divided and unable. America should lead but is retreating into narrow self-interest. The energy is on the side of assertive autocracy. That needs to be confronted, but who will do it?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Name the building already after McPhetres

I want to thank Rep. Edwin Aldan. If anyone deserves to be immortalized at the Northern Marianas College, it is Mrs. Agnes McPhetres and her husband! One can't discuss the founding and history of NMC without including both of the McPhetres. It is also a baldfaced lie that the naming of a building will affect NMC's accreditation. Thanks to Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero who pointed out that a building within the NMC campus was previously named after someone as well. Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), who was acting chair in the absence of Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), did table the bill while their legal counsel reviews NMC's claim.

It is really the responsibility of the board and not the president, which raises the question: Why didn't the board and its president take on this issue? There is nothing wrong with Ms. Fernandez supporting the board's efforts but the board needs to be leading on this issue and she needs to stop taking on the board's responsibilities when it comes to legislation. Stop the NMC politics.

More importantly, this is about Mrs. McPhetres who is literally the founding mother of NMC and too often we wait until people are dead to truly recognize them and give them the credit they are due. Mrs. McPhetres more than deserves a building being named after her as there should be a statue too! The practice or paradigm of recognizing people after they are dead needs to change, to begin recognizing these great people while they live when possible so they can see for themselves the appreciation for their efforts. Those people who were complaining about the Earhart monument and the need for locals to be immortalized in a monument now have a chance to speak up and support the effort to immortalize Mrs. Agnes McPhetres, the founding mother of NMC who is a great local educator and social leader of the CNMI.

The board may have very well opened a can of worms by complaining about the law can't make them do something, just like the CWs did when they asked for federal intervention and look what happened to the CWs—their days are now numbered. I told the CWs so and not to seek federal intervention and now I'm telling NMC they need to volunteer to name the building or it could lead to more legislation dictating NMC to do things. I know there are many people and leaders who are sick and tired of NMC and its accreditation failures because NMC is not progressing like it should to become a full four-year college, which is the real challenge to their accreditation work—the ability to grow and improve and nothing to do with the name of a building.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Good credit? Bad credit?

I read the February 2018 letter to the editor from our Delegate Gregorio Sablan with a bit of shock. Not that Kilili is taking credit for things he may or may not have done, or that he is finding explanations for his lack of accomplishments, but that he is actually taking credit for today's current crisis regarding the CW workers.

I looked back to see if this was true. In a June 2014 article titled "Kilili: CW extension debate is over," Delegate Kilili celebrated the U.S. Department of Labor's decision to extend the CW program to 2019, as the extension was in the U.S. DOL's authority under U.S. Public Law 110-229. It was good news at the time as it extended access to CW workers 'till 2019 and, when 2019 arrived, the CNMI can make its case for an additional five-year extension, again provided by U.S. Public Law 110-229.

Then something strange happened. In December 2014, a bill came into the picture that ended the CW program in 2019 and removed future extensions from being granted. That bill was H.R. 83 and it created the situation we are in today. Funny thing is that Kilili, in his February 2018 letter to the editor, championed that bill as an example of using his "piggybacking" ability to move bills in Washington. He said "Leadership called me and said: Congressman, would it be okay if we piggyback the omnibus appropriation bill on to H.R. 83, the territories bill that extends the CW program from 2014 to 2019." But, remember only a few months before H.R. 83, the transition was already extended to 2019.

If it wasn't for H.R. 83, we would not be needing to talk about new laws through Congress or witness him fight to claim credit. Kilili started this fire and wants us to thank him for bringing the water to put it out. And he's proud of that. We are all aware of Kilili taking credit for things he did not do, but it is strange that he would take credit for creating this economic turmoil and disruption we are experiencing today.

Sylvan Olopai Igisomar
Cypress, California

In memory of Roy Rechebei

I recently returned to Saipan after being away for awhile and came to one of my favorite places, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. If you haven't been here already, you will certainly find a friendly staff, a wealth of books, magazines, videos and other media to check out perfectly free. They also have a very nice bike rack, which they were in the process of procuring before I left.

The reason for this letter specifically is to acknowledge one of the library staff who recently passed away, Roy Diaz Rechebei. I first want to express my condolences to his family and friends and the staff at the library who have created a beautiful memorial in his honor.

While I didn't know Roy other than seeing him regularly at the library, I can say that he helped me many, many times, particularly on the internet. He never got angry at what probably seemed dumb questions, he was always patient, kind and soft-spoken and polite as are all of the staff here at the library. I just wanted to say that I was saddened to hear of his passing and touched by the way the rest of the staff gave tribute to him in a very special way.

There have been many positive changes here at the library since I left, and I suggest if you haven't already, go check it out and discover the resources and friendly staff. This library is one of the nicest places to come on Saipan and we are fortunate to have it.

Susan Marchitti
Koblerville, Saipan

STEPHEN

From Page 10

forms, Hawking remarked, "I think it would be a disaster. The extraterrestrials would probably be far in advance of us. The history of advanced races meeting more primitive people on this planet is not very happy, and they were the same species. I think we should keep our heads low."

When asked a few years back by The New York Times how he kept his spirits up, Hawking said, "My expectations were reduced to zero when I was 21. Everything since then has been a bonus." The boundaries of his world were narrowly and severely drawn by disease, but with his mind—peerless, free and invincible—Stephen Hawking roamed the universe.

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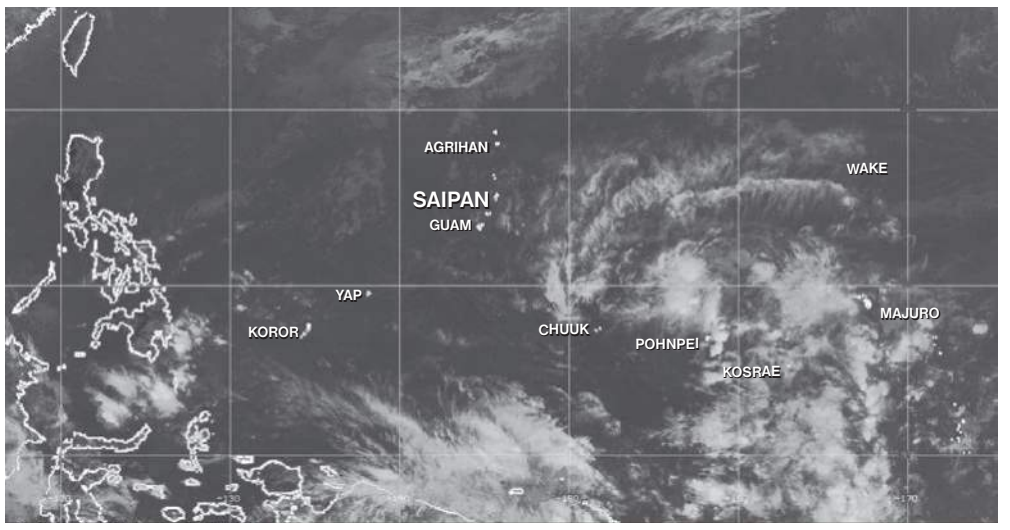
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
▲87º ▼77º	▲87º ▼77º	▲89º ▼77º	▲88º ▼77º	▲89º ▼77º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:00 AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Overall, the dry pattern continues through Wednesday. A weak disturbance is moving through this morning and bringing some isolated showers. The ECMWF is a little more robust with the rain today, so will have to keep an eye on how things develop. Then it is fairly dry until the tropical disturbance currently northwest of Pohnpei moves between Guam and Yap around Thursday. Showers on the north side of the system could begin to affect the area by Thursday. There could be some scattered showers during the Thursday to Friday time frame and we can hopefully resolve the period better as we get closer. With the dry air in place, the KBDI continues to creep up. However wind speeds look to fall just short and humidity values will be right around threshold values, so fire weather conditions will be monitored over the next few days.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	86° / 76°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Showers	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Showers	83° / 78°
Kosrae	Showers	83° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 30°
Hong Kong	Rain	70° / 57°
Honolulu	Thunderstorm	82° / 72°
London	Windy	43° / 34°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	68° / 51°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	93° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	64° / 50°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	81° / 71°
New York	Partly Cloudy	42° / 36°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	54° / 46°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	37° / 27°
Busan	Windy	46° / 41°
Rome	Showers	54° / 39°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	74° / 54°
San Francisco	Showers	51° / 43°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	50° / 34°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	52° / 37°
Washington, DC	Showers	51° / 41°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:56 AM	LOW TIDE	0.21
8:59 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.95
3:20 PM	LOW TIDE	0.40
9:10 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.92

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:22 AM	6:27 PM
Tuesday	6:22 AM	6:27 PM
Wednesday	6:20 AM	6:27 PM
Thursday	6:20 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:30 am	7:59 pm	-
Tuesday	8:13 am	8:53 pm	-
Wednesday	8:58 am	9:49 pm	-
Thursday	9:46 am	10:47 pm	-
Friday	10:36 am	11:46 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Hyatt golf classic features Tacoma as hole-in-one prize

From left to right, Kevin Barnes, AK Saipan sales associate; Gabriele Colombo, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef; Mark Sablan, AK Saipan sales associate; Glen Perez, AK Saipan sales manager; Tyrell Pauling, Hyatt Regency Saipan director of Food and Beverage; Ben Morse, AK Saipan operations manager; Liza Taylor, AK Saipan sales associate; Zenn Tomokane, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive sous chef; and Naum Vekhov, AK Saipan sales associate.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hyatt Regency Saipan recently received a new 2017 Toyota Tacoma TMAX Pre-Runner with a suggested retail value of $26,699 as a hole-in-one prize at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic.

The new Toyota 2017 Pre-Runner will be located at hole 13 and will go to one lucky golfer on the day of the tournament, April 7, 2018.

Atkins Kroll Saipan's contribution of the 2017 Toyota Pre-Runner qualifies the company as a Platinum event partner, the highest partnership level across the tournament.

The donation will aid Hyatt beneficiaries this year's:

■ Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI, aiding them in their mission to grant wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses;

■ CNMI Salvation Army, aiding them in extending the reach of their soup kitchen and food bank for the CNMI;

■ CNMI Center for Living Independently as they ensure the rights of people with disabilities to live independently and fully integrate within the community, outside of an institutional care setting;

■ 670 Sonics Basketball Association in their effort to provide the youth of Saipan a safe haven through the game of basketball while developing their character, teamwork and leadership skills as a whole person;

■ Dandan Middle School STEM and Garden Club, which supports middle school students with the development and maintenance of their school's food production garden using hydroponics, aquaponics, raised bed planting, chicken raising/breeding as well as experimenting in solar thermal energy uses; and

■ Saipan Paddling Club, aiding the club in expanding through the purchase of new equipment such as an outrigger canoe for upcoming competitions.

"We are excited to partner again with the Charity Golf Classic and support our local community," said Atkins Kroll Saipan general manager Glen Perez. "Caring for our community is a theme that resonates with the Atkins Kroll Saipan team and this year we are proud to once again offer Saipan's most popular light truck as a hole- in-one prize for the 22nd Annual Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic. Best of luck on the greens to all the participants in this highly popular annual event!"

Hyatt general manager Nick K. Nishikawa said that 2018 marks the 22nd anniversary of the charity golf classic.

"We are grateful for Atkins Kroll Saipan's generous donation. We hope one lucky golf player makes that shot on the green this April 7 and gets to drive the new Toyota Pre-Runner home. The support of Atkins Kroll alongside other event sponsors is what makes our mission of caring for our community possible," said Nishikawa.

Since 1967, Atkins Kroll Saipan has served the area, first as a wholesale/retail operation providing various products to Saipan and the surround Micronesian Islands. Now, Atkins Kroll Saipan shifted its focus to the automotive market, boasting a vast inventory of new Toyota cars, as well as Scion, Chevrolet, and Lexus models. ***(PR)***

'EITC bill in US Senate excludes Marianas again'

The U.S. Senate is currently reviewing the Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands Equitable Rebuild Act, which, among others, seeks to provide federal funding for Earned Income Tax Credit payouts on both U.S. territories.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), who chairs the Committee on Ways and Means in the CNMI House of Representatives, expressed disappointment Friday that nobody in Washington, D.C. is fighting to ensure that the CNMI is included in this bill that would fully fund the EITC for two other jurisdictions.

"The EITC is a federally mandated income supplement for qualified wage earners, especially those with children and is intended for families in need," said Demapan. "It's a real shame to know that there is an active legislation before the U.S. Senate which does not include the CNMI and Guam."

The EITC is already available to Americans living in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The states are reimbursed by the federal government for EITC payments they make. On the contrary, territories that pay out EITC are not reimbursed. Territories are left to faced such a huge unfunded mandate that states have absolutely nothing to worry about.

As a member of the CNMI 902 team in 2016, Demapan joined Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in including the issue of the EITC in the 902 consultations as a mechanism to incentivize greater local workforce participation to meet the end of the transition period in 2019.

"We are thankful that our recommendations were made part of the final report to Congress. Even then, we knew that a statutory change in the U.S. Congress is needed in order to provide the CNMI with funding to implement the credit," said Demapan. "It's only fair and equitable that this bill before the Senate, introduced by Democratic Sen. Bernie Sanders, be amended to include the CNMI and the territories left behind yet again."

Demapan remains steadfast on his position that families in the CNMI deserve to receive EITC payments.

"I supported the EITC program two years ago because I know it can lift up many of our working families by providing them with the opportunities to succeed in our growing economy. However, what some are suggesting would lead to the largest unfunded mandate for our government at a time when we have already brought down our government debt by 42.5 percent over the last several years, providing more financial security for our children's future. That's why I cannot understand how our advocates in Washington, D.C. can afford to fall asleep at the wheel when Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are on the verge of getting full federal support to fund EITC in their jurisdictions, while the Marianas is left out once again even when the opportunity to correct this injustice was available in Congress. That's an injustice to working families here in the CNMI," added Demapan. ***(PR)***

Hyatt golf classic gets $3.0K media coverage donation from Power 99

From left to right, Claudine Camacho, Hyatt Regency Saipan assistant marketing communications manager; Tyrell Pauling, Hyatt Regency Saipan director of Food and Beverage; James Nelson, Sorensen Media Group–Power 99 general manager; Rosalyn Quintanilla, Hyatt Regency Saipan director of Rooms; Gabriele Colombo, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hyatt Regency Saipan has partnered with Sorensen Media-Power 99 for coverage valued at $3,000 for the upcoming 22nd Annual Charity Golf Classic, making the company a platinum sponsor for this year's Charity Golf Classic.

Power 99 general manager James Nelson and his team of DJ personalities will cover different angles of the tournament, with live discussions with the 22nd Annual Charity golf committee directors highlighting an array of prizes, new partnering sponsors and the tournament's beneficiaries.

The donation from Sorensen Media Group – Power 99 will aid this year's beneficiaries: Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI, CNMI Salvation Army, CNMI Center for Living Independently, 670 Sonics Basketball Association, Dandan Middle School STEM and Garden Club, and Saipan Paddling Club.

"The Hyatt Regency Charity Golf Classic continues to be one of the premiere golfing events on Saipan. For more than 20 years now, the Hyatt Regency Saipan continues to be a solid corporate citizen that reaches out to the community. With the tournament proceeds going to the Make-a-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI and other local non- profit organizations, we are happy to join the Hyatt Regency Charity Golf Classic as a sponsor," said Nelson.

"We are honored by the generosity of the Sorensen Media Group – Power 99 to help support us in our efforts to promote the 22nd Annual Charity Golf Classic. With their support and the contributions of other partnering organizations, our tournament will make an even bigger impact in our island community," said Claudine Camacho, Hyatt Regency Saipan assistant marketing communication manager.

Hyatt will hold its 22nd Annual Charity Golf Classic event at LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort west course on April 7, 2018. Early Bird registration is open until Friday, March 30, at 4pm for a rate of $100 per golfer. For more information contact (670) 234-1234 Ext. 26.

Sorensen Media Group, a privately-held media and entertainment company, in the Mariana Islands with holdings in television, radio and internet broadcasting. SMG also provides audio and video production and social media services. Its radio stations include Power 98 FM, Newstalk K57 AM, 105 The Kat FM, and The Shark on Guam and Power 99 FM on Saipan. In television, its stations are ABC7 and Fox6 Guam and ABC7 Saipan. Radio and nightly television news is provided to each station and the internet by its news organization The Pacific News Center, Guam. ***(PR)***

TanHoldings is star sponsor for MMAC 2018

TanHoldings Corp. will once again be the star sponsor for the Marianas March Against Cancer, making it their second year as the top sponsor for the Commonwealth Cancer Association's signature event.

Star sponsorship is given to one company or organization that makes a donation worth over $10,000 in cash or in-kind services.

This year, TanHoldings will make a monetary donation of $8,000 and a donation of 2,000 T-shirts worth $20,000 and given to team members, survivors, and sponsors.

"TanHoldings has been a very consistent supporter of MMAC for many years. They have contributed mightily to our community, and we are very thankful that they have agreed to be our star sponsor this year," said MMAC 2018 sponsorship chair Monique B. Sablan.

"The donation made by TanHoldings really underscores their commitment to our community's fight against cancer. Perpetuating the theme of 'One Community. One Journey,' every single dollar raised from every sponsor and team goes directly to supporting a loved one in the CNMI battling this disease. We encourage everyone in our community to join the fight," said MMAC 2018 chair Bobby Cruz. ***(PR)***

TanHoldings Corp. officials affirm the corporation's commitment to once again be the star sponsor for the Marianas March Against Cancer this year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Yorko Summer is Marianas Ocean Tourism Ambassador

By BEA CABRERA
CORRESPONDENT

Underwater photographer and television show host Yorko Summer has been named the 2018 Marianas Ocean Tourism Ambassador by the Marianas Visitors Authority during its general membership meeting at the Queens Club of Kensington Hotel Saipan last Thursday.

Summer, who was introduced to MVA members, government officials, and business leaders last Thursday, will promote diving sites and activities on the three islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"Diving and underwater photography combined are my great passions and I would love to share what I experience and see when I go underwater in the waters of the Marianas," Yorko said.

Yorko describes the diving experience here as world-class due to the untouched, unharmed, and natural underwater scenery and wildlife in the Marianas.

"This would entice underwater enthusiasts and ocean lovers," he added.

Yorko's passion for underwater photography started in 2002, leading him to host a television show in Taiwan, *Underwater 30 Meters*, that is broadcasted in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and mainland China.

The show follows Yorko and model Pei-yu "Patty" Lee as they explore underwater wonders.

"I am honored to be the 2018 Marianas Ocean Tourism Ambassador and I will do my best to show the world how beautiful the islands of the Marianas are," said Yorko Summer.

BEA CABRERA

"I first came to the Marianas in July last year and we filmed in the popular dive sites such as the Grotto, Managaha, Banzai Cliff, Lau Lau Beach, dive site Ice Cream, Naftan Beach, Obyan Beach, Spotlight and Tanapag Lagoon. Every place has a magic of its own," he said.

"We also dove on Tinian and visited Taga Beach. I have heard a lot of great things about the diving experience on Rota so my next adventure will definitely be on Rota," he added.

Yorko's underwater adventures and photos appeal to thousands of people who follow him in all of his social media platform.

"He is well known in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and mainland China. His social media reach is outstanding, making him the rightful Ocean Tourism Ambassador for the Marianas," said MVA managing director Chris Concepcion. "He is considered an effective 'influencer' in the social media scene."

Yorko travels frequently in promoting dive tourism.

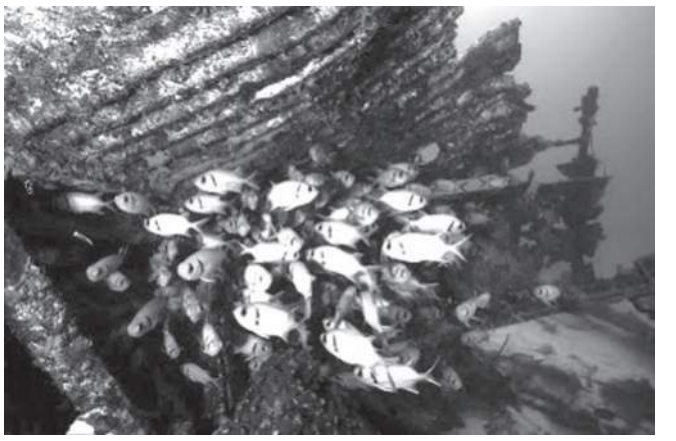
"I have worked with the Okinawa Tourism [and] Philippine Department of Tourism, and has been invited to many dive shows in China and Hong Kong. So when my show went here last year and explored the dive sites on Saipan and Tinian, it created a lot of interest because we were able to show the Marianas underwater scenes," he said.

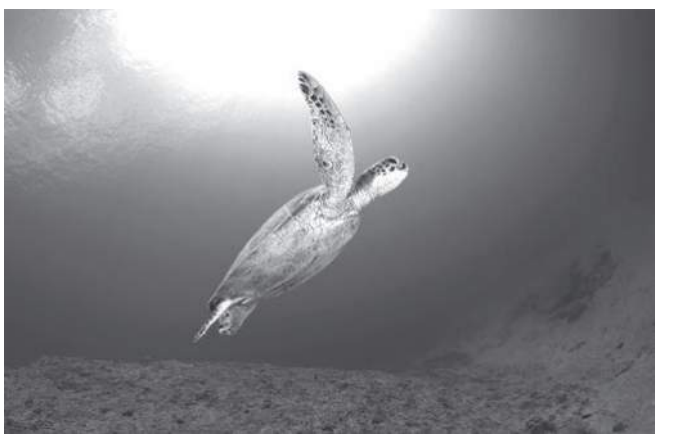
He will be in Singapore in April to give a talk at the Singapore Dive Expo, considered the biggest dive show in Asia. He also has speaking engagements in Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and China this year.

"As the Marianas Ocean Tourism Ambassador, I will use those opportunities to promote the Marianas," he said.

Aside from diving, Yorko said the Marianas offers many adventure opportunities for ocean lovers like him.

"The Marianas is also an ideal place for snorkeling and water sports. …There a many possibilities in the Marianas and I cannot wait to promote each one of them," he said. "When people ask me how I will invite people to come to the Marianas, I will simply say 'Come to paradise, come to the Marianas; and it will be worth your while."





These photos show samples of Yorko Summer's underwater photos. The first shows a school of fish resting in a World War II shipwreck. Second photo shows a sea turtle, while a third photo shows a playful Yorko Summer taking a photo of himself riding a bicycle underwater.

YORKO SUMMER

Business

4 deaths in Hyundai-Kia cars when air bags failed probed

DETROIT (AP)—Air bags in some Hyundai and Kia cars failed to inflate in crashes and four people are dead. Now the U.S. government's road safety agency wants to know why.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says it's investigating problems that affect an estimated 425,000 cars made by the Korean automakers. The agency also is looking into whether the same problem could happen in vehicles made by other companies.

In documents posted on its website Saturday , the safety agency says the probe covers 2011 Hyundai Sonata midsize cars and 2012 and 2013 Kia Forte compacts. The agency says it has reports of six front-end crashes with significant damage to the cars. Four people died and six were injured.

The problem has been traced to electrical circuit shorts in air bag control computers made by parts supplier ZF-TRW. NHTSA now wants to know if other automakers used the same computer.

On Feb. 27, Hyundai recalled nearly 155,000 Sonatas due to air bag failures, which the company blamed on the short circuits. Hyundai's sister automaker Kia, which sells similar vehicles, has yet to issue a recall.

In a statement Saturday, Kia said that it has not confirmed any air bag non-deployments in its 2002-2013 Kia Forte models arising from "the potential chip issue." The company said it will work with NHTSA investigators.

"Kia will act promptly to conduct a safety recall, if it determines that a recall would be appropriate," the company said.

But a consumer complaint cited in NHTSA's investigation documents said Kia was informed of a crash near Oakland in which air bags failed to deploy and a passenger was killed.

In October 2015, the complainant told NHTSA that a 2012 Forte was involved in a serious front-end crash that occurred in July 2013. A passenger was killed and the driver was injured. According to the complaint, Kia was notified, the air bag computer was tested and it was "found not to be working."

People who complain to the NHTSA are not identified in its database. It was unclear whether the agency verified the complainant's statement. A message was left Saturday for agency spokeswomen.

Kia spokesman James Bell said he could not comment beyond the company's statement.

In addition, no deaths or injuries were disclosed in Hyundai's recall documents, which were posted by NHTSA in early March.

Hyundai spokesman Jim Trainor says the problem occurred in rare high-speed head-on collisions that were offset from the center of the vehicles. "It's very unusual to have that kind of collision," he said Saturday.

Dealers will consider offering loaner cars to owners until the problem can be repaired, he said. "We certainly would do everything we can to help our customers," Trainor said.

Hyundai said in a statement that the air bag control circuitry was damaged in three crashes and a fourth crash is under investigation.

ZF-TRW said in a statement that it is prevented by confidentiality agreements from identifying other automakers who bought its air bag control computers. The company said it is working with customers and supports the NHTSA investigation.

Trump-linked data analysis firm taps 50M Facebook profiles

WASHINGTON (AP)—A data analysis firm employed by President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign tapped the Facebook profiles of more than 50 million users without their permission, allowing it to capitalize on the private social media activity of a large portion of the U.S. electorate, newspapers reported Saturday.

One of the largest data leaks in Facebook history allowed Cambridge Analytica, which had ties to Trump campaign strategist Steve Bannon, to develop techniques that formed the basis of its work on the Trump campaign, The New York Times and The Guardian reported.

Facebook said it suspended Cambridge Analytica over allegations that it kept the improperly obtained user data after telling Facebook it had been deleted.

In a blog post, Facebook explained that Cambridge Analytica had years ago received user data from a Facebook app that purported to be a psychological research tool, though the firm was not authorized to have the information. Roughly 270,000 people downloaded and shared personal details with the app.

Cambridge Analytica later certified in 2015 that it had destroyed the information it had received, according to Facebook, although the social network said it received reports "several days ago" that not all the data was deleted. Facebook says it is investigating.

Facebook has also suspended the access of Cambridge Analytica's parent company, Strategic Communication Laboratories; University of Cambridge psychology professor Aleksandr Kogan, the academic who created the app in question; and another individual, Christopher Wylie of Eunoia Technologies, who also allegedly received user data from the app. Wylie is a former Cambridge Analytics employee who has emerged as a primary source for the Times report.

Cambridge Analytica denied wrongdoing in a statement. It said the parent company's SCL Elections unit hired Kogan to undertake "a large scale research project in the U.S.," but subsequently deleted all data it received from Kogan's company after learning that Kogan had obtained data in violation of Facebook policies. The firm said none of Kogan's data was used in its 2016 election work for the "avoidance of doubt."

Kogan did not immediately reply to an emailed request for comment. Wylie could not immediately be located.

The Facebook blog post, written by deputy general counsel Paul Grewal, cited the "public prominence" of Cambridge Analytica, called the alleged data retention an "unacceptable violation of trust" and said the social network will take legal action if necessary to hold all parties "responsible and accountable for any unlawful behavior."

Cambridge Analytica is probably best known for its political work during the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign. The company claims to build psychological profiles based on personal details from millions of Americans that can categorize individual voters. It worked for both the primary campaign of Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, and Trump's general-election campaign.

Trump's campaign Saturday denied using the firm's data, saying it relied on the Republican National Committee for its data.

Nation

Bridge victim's grieving uncle lashes out at 'incompetence'

MIAMI (AP)—As crews removed bodies from beneath a collapsed pedestrian bridge Saturday, a victim's uncle raged against what he called the "complete incompetence" and "colossal failure" that allowed people to drive beneath the unfinished concrete span.

"Why they had to build this monstrosity in the first place to get children across the street?" said an anguished Joe Smitha, whose niece, Alexa Duran, was crushed in Thursday's collapse at Florida International University. "Then they decided to stress test this bridge while traffic was running underneath it?"

Authorities say six people were killed when the structure fell onto a busy six-lane road connecting the campus to the community of Sweetwater. Crews removed two cars Saturday morning and said they found three bodies, but officials said there were still at least two more victims beneath the rubble. Late in the day they recovered a third car, and Saturday night they said they believed all victims had been found.

The Miami-Dade Police Department confirmed the names of four victims Saturday.

Rolando Fraga Hernandez and his gold Jeep Cherokee were pulled from the wreckage Saturday. Later, the bodies of Oswald Gonzalez, 57, and Alberto Arias, 54, were found inside a white Chevy truck.

Navarro Brown was pulled from the rubble Thursday and later died at the hospital.

Authorities have not released Duran's name, but her family has said she died. The FIU freshman was studying political science.

The National Transportation Safety Board has confirmed that crews were applying what's known as "post-tensioning force" on the bridge before the failure. Authorities are investigating whether cracking that was reported just before the span fell contributed to the accident.

Experts interviewed by The Associated Press were mixed on the significance of those reported cracks.

Amjad Aref, a professor with the University of Buffalo's Institute of Bridge Engineering, said they should have been "a big red flag."

"Bridges are really very vulnerable when they are under construction, when there are just pieces," he said. "It's like still a flimsy structure. And when you see cracks, somebody has to raise really a big flag and say, 'We need to do something. We need to figure out what's happening quickly and do any mitigating actions to prevent further progression of damage and ultimately collapse,' as we saw here."

Mueller now has memos McCabe kept on Trump dealings

WASHINGTON (AP)—Andrew McCabe, the one-time FBI deputy director long scorned by President Donald Trump and just fired by the attorney general, kept personal memos detailing interactions with the president that have been provided to the special counsel's office and are similar to the notes compiled by dismissed FBI chief James Comey, The Associated Press has learned.

Mueller

The memos could factor into special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation as his team examines Trump campaign ties to Russia and possible obstruction of justice.

McCabe's memos include details of his own interactions with the president, according to a person with direct knowledge of the situation who wasn't authorized to discuss the notes publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. They also recount different conversations he had with Comey, who kept notes on meetings with Trump that unnerved him.

Though the precise contents are unknown, the memos possibly could help substantiate McCabe's assertion that he was unfairly maligned by a White House he says had declared "war" on the FBI and Mueller's investigation. They almost certainly contain, as Comey's memos did, previously undisclosed details about encounters between the Trump administration and FBI that could be of interest to Mueller.

The disclosure Saturday came hours after Trump called McCabe's firing by Attorney General Jeff Sessions "a great day for Democracy" and asserted without elaboration that McCabe knew "all about the lies and corruption going on at the highest levels off the FBI!" In the last year, Trump has repeatedly condemned McCabe as emblematic of an FBI that he insists is biased against his administration.

That sent former CIA Director John Brennan, an outspoken Trump critic, into a Twitter tizzy: "When the full extent of your venality, moral turpitude, and political corruption becomes known, you will take your rightful place as a disgraced demagogue in the dustbin of history. You may scapegoat Andy McCabe, but you will not destroy America...America will triumph over you."

Sessions said he acted on the recommendation of FBI disciplinary officials who said McCabe had not been candid with a watchdog office investigation. McCabe was fired two days before his retirement date on Sunday. The dismissal likely jeopardizes his ability to collect his full pension benefits and, more broadly, could add to the turmoil that has enveloped the FBI since Comey's firing and as the bureau moves ahead with an investigation the White House has dismissed as a hoax.

Asia

ASEAN backs sanctions vs N. Korea

AP

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, left, and Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull hold a joint press conference at the end of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) special summit, in Sydney, Sunday, March 18, 2018.

SYDNEY (AP)—South East Asian leaders and Australia's prime minister on Sunday called on North Korea to end its nuclear program urged United Nations countries to fully implement sanctions.

Leaders at the first summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, known as ASEAN, to be held in Australia issued a joint statement with Australia that also called for non-militarization and a code of conduct in the contested waters of the South China Sea, where China has become increasingly assertive.

"We reiterate our support for the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner as well as initiatives toward establishing peace in the Korean Peninsula," the joint statement said at the end of the weekend summit in Sydney.

On territorial conflicts with China, which like Australia is not a member of ASEAN, the statement said: "We reaffirm the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, stability, maritime safety and security, freedom of navigation and overflight in the region."

"We emphasize the importance of non-militarization and the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities and avoid actions that may complicate the situation," the statement said.

China and the five countries that have conflicting territorial claims over the South China Sea—which include four ASEAN countries—plan to negotiate code of conduct in one of the world's busiest waterways aimed at reducing the risks of armed confrontations in the contested territories.

President Donald Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who are both planning to meet North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un this spring, last week pledged to maintain "maximum pressure" on his authoritarian regime and seek action on giving up his nukes.

Moon is due to meet Kim in April, a prelude to what would be first U.S.-North Korean summit during seven decades of hostility since the 1950-53 Korean War. The Trump-Kim summit was announced two weeks ago.

ASIAN BRIEFS

10 dead as small plane slams into house in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A small passenger plane carrying five people crashed into a house shortly after takeoff north of Manila on Saturday, killing all those onboard and five people on the ground, officials said. The Piper-23 Apache plane took off from the airport in Plaridel town in Bulacan province then crash-landed and smashed into the house, Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines spokesman Eric Apolonio and police said. All five Filipinos on board the six-seat plane were killed, and the crash killed five people on the ground, Plaridel police chief Supt. Julio Lizardo said by phone. The crash ignited a fire in a house that was hit by the aircraft, he said. Two other people on the ground were injured by burning debris, Lizardo said. The cause of the crash was not immediately known. Witnesses said the plane hit a tree and electric post before slamming into the house. TV footage showed parts of the plane wreckage and the shattered walls of the house at the still-smoldering crash site.

Bus falls into dry river bed in east India, killing 12

PATNA, India (AP)—A speeding bus plunged into a dry river bed in eastern India on Saturday, killing at least 12 people and injuring 35. Magistrate Raju Roshan said the driver lost control of the vehicle and crashed through the bridge railing near Sitamarhi, a town in Bihar state. The injured were taken to a hospital in the nearby town of Muzaffarpur. Roshan said the rescue work was continuing as three people were still unaccounted for. A crane was being used to remove the bus, which was lying upside down on the bed of the Bagmati river, 85 kilometers (55 miles) north of Patna, the state capital. More than 110,000 people are killed annually on India's roads. Most crashes are attributed to reckless driving, poorly maintained roads and aging vehicles.

India: Pakistan shelling kills 5 family members in Kashmir

JAMMU, India (AP)—Five members of a family were killed and two others wounded on Sunday in cross border shelling between Indian and Pakistani soldiers in disputed Kashmir, officials said. The five were killed after a shell fired by Pakistani soldiers hit their home in Poonch region along the militarized Line of Control that divides the Himalayan territory between the two nuclear-armed rivals, said S.P. Vaid, the police chief. The dead included a woman, two children and a teenage boy. Vaid said the injured have been hospitalized and authorities were evacuating civilians from the area amid shelling and firing. India's army said its soldiers were responding to what it called unprovoked violation of the 2003 cease-fire agreement between the two countries. Pakistan did not immediately comment. However, both the nuclear-armed rivals routinely blame the other for starting any firing and insist they are only retaliating.

World

Russia expels 23 UK envoys

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia announced Saturday it is expelling 23 British diplomats and threatened further retaliatory measures in a growing diplomatic dispute over a nerve agent attack on a former spy in Britain.

» Blames others for spy poisoning

Britain's government said the move was expected, and that it doesn't change their conviction that Russia was behind the poisoning of ex-agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter in the English city of Salisbury. Prime Minister Theresa May said Britain will consider further retaliatory steps in the coming days alongside its allies.

The Russian Foreign Ministry ordered the 23 diplomats to leave within a week. It also said it is ordering the closure in Russia of the British Council, a government-backed organization for cultural and scientific cooperation, and is ending an agreement to reopen the British consulate in St. Petersburg.

The announcement followed Britain's order this week for 23 Russian diplomats to leave the U.K. because Russia was not cooperating in the case of the Skripals, who were found March 4 poisoned by a nerve agent that British officials say was developed in Russia. They remain in critical condition and a policeman who visited their home is in serious condition.

Britain's foreign secretary accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of personally ordering the poisoning of the Skripals. Putin's spokesman denounced the claim.

Britain's Foreign Office said Saturday that "Russia's response doesn't change the facts of the matter—the attempted assassination of two people on British soil, for which there is no alternative conclusion other than that the Russian State was culpable."

The British Council said it was "profoundly disappointed" at its pending closure. The organization has been operating in Russia since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union.

"It is our view that when political or diplomatic relations become difficult, cultural relations and educational opportunities are vital to maintain on-going dialogue between people and institutions," it said.

The Russian statement said the government could take further measures if Britain makes any more "unfriendly" moves.

Britain's National Security Council will meet early next week to consider the next steps, May said.

Western powers see the nerve-agent attack as the latest sign of alleged Russian meddling abroad. The tensions threaten to overshadow Putin's expected re-election Sunday for another six-year presidential term.

The poisoning has plunged Britain and Russia into a war of recrimination and blame.

British Ambassador Laurie Bristow, who was summoned the Foreign Ministry in Moscow on Saturday to be informed of the moves, said the poisoning was an attack on "the international rules-based system on which all countries, including Russia, depend for their safety and security."

"This crisis has arisen as a result of an appalling attack in the United Kingdom, the attempted murder of two people, using a chemical weapon developed in Russia and not declared by Russia at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, as Russia was and is obliged to do under the Chemical Weapons Convention," he added.

But Russian lawmaker Konstantin Kosachev blamed Britain for the escalating tensions.

"We have not raised any tensions in our relations, it was the decision by the British side without evidence," he told The Associated Press.

Advancing Syrian troops pile pressure on rebels in Ghouta

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian troops captured a major rebel stronghold east of the capital Damascus Saturday and took large parts of another, squeezing insurgents and forcing thousands to flee to regions controlled by the government.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Oways al-Shami of the Syrian Civil Defense said troops have taken Kafr Batna and large parts of nearby Saqba.

The capture of Kafr Batna and parts of nearby Saqba is another blow to opposition fighters who have lost more than 70 percent of the area known as eastern Ghouta since the President Bashar Assad's forces began a crushing offensive under the cover of airstrikes on Feb. 18. The violence left nearly 1,400 people dead, more than 5,000 wounded and forced tens of thousands to seek shelter in areas under government control.

The intensity of the shelling and airstrikes have made it almost impossible for ambulances to move and wounded people cannot reach clinics, said Hamza Hassan, a surgeon working at one of the hospitals in eastern Ghouta.

Syrian state news agency SANA said the army stepped up military operations in eastern Ghouta and inflicted "heavy losses on terrorist groups in personnel and military hardware." It said troops reached the center of Kafr Batna and Saqba.

With the capture of Kafr Batna and parts of Saqba, rebels still control the towns of Arbeen, Zamalka, Ein Tarma and Jobar on the southern edge of eastern Ghouta. Eastern Ghouta has been split to three parts - the largest rebel-held town of Douma to the north has been cut off from nearby Harasta, and both have been split off from the rest of the area.

The Observatory said 30 people were killed in a Saturday morning airstrike on Zamalka that hit a group of people trying to flee into government-controlled areas.

The opposition's Syrian Civil Defense said the airstrike killed dozens and wounded scores, adding that paramedics are trying to help survivors.

"The world has betrayed us," said Ahmad Khanshour, a resident of eastern Ghouta, referring to the international community that could not do much to stop the offensive. "The world betrayed itself and the human values we all once shared."

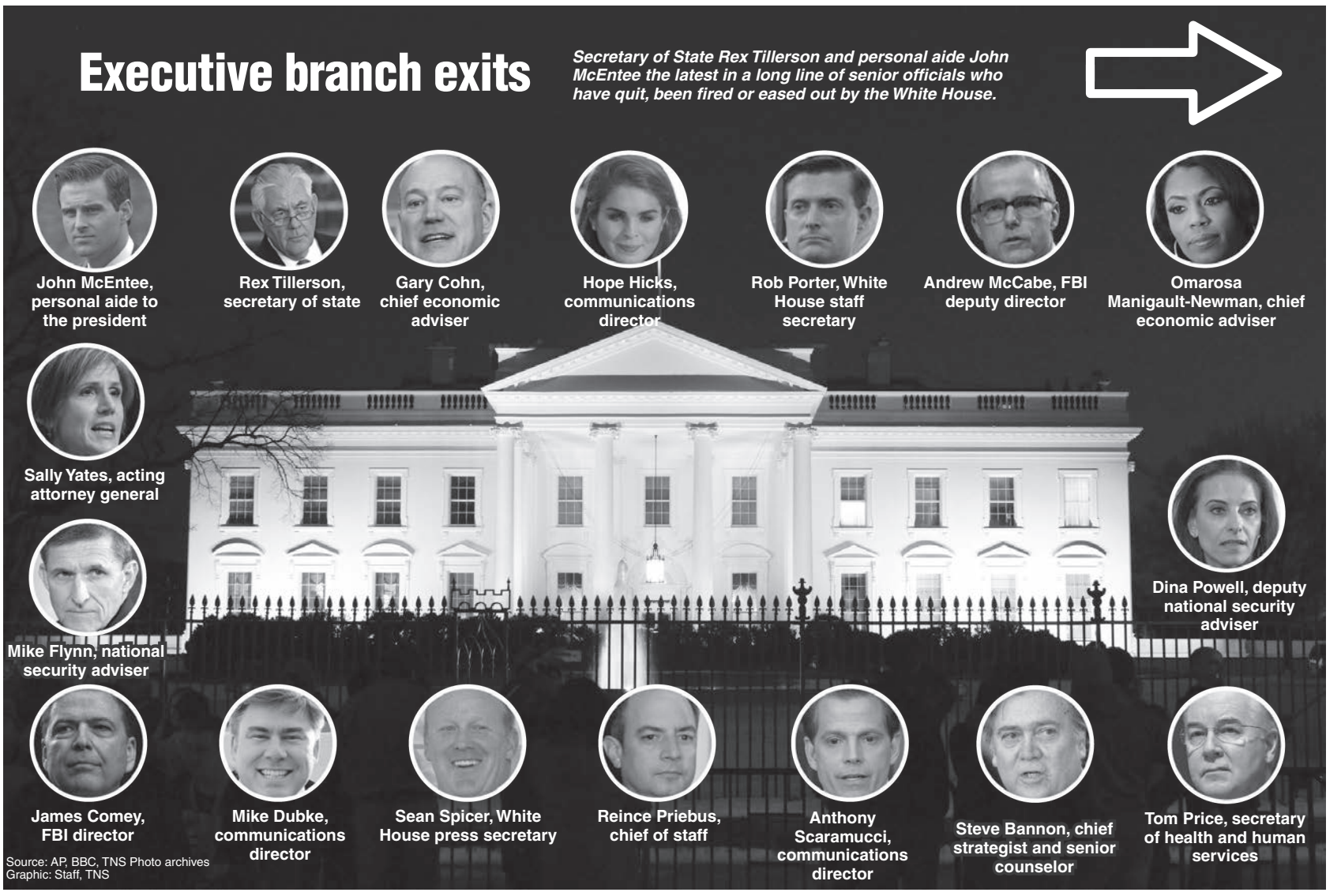
He added that some 300,000 people are still besieged in eastern Ghouta, left to choose between "dying under fire or surrendering and go to Assad's jails and slaughterhouses."

Speaking about the capture of Kafr Batna, al-Shami of the Syrian Civil Defense said people "fled in the streets not knowing in which direction to go." He added that large numbers of people have now been squeezed into the small areas held by rebels in eastern Ghouta.

Focus

Cabinet chaos: Trump's team battles scandal, irrelevance

By JONATHAN LEMIRE
ASSOCIATED PRESS


Executive branch exits
Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and personal aide John McEntee the latest in a long line of senior officials who have quit, been fired or eased out by the White House.
John McEntee, personal aide to the president
Rex Tillerson, secretary of state
Gary Cohn, chief economic adviser
Hope Hicks, communications director
Rob Porter, White House staff secretary
Andrew McCabe, FBI deputy director
Omarosa Manigault-Newman, chief economic adviser
Sally Yates, acting attorney general
Mike Flynn, national security adviser
Dina Powell, deputy national security adviser
James Comey, FBI director
Mike Dubke, communications director
Sean Spicer, White House press secretary
Reince Priebus, chief of staff
Anthony Scaramucci, communications director
Steve Bannon, chief strategist and senior counselor
Tom Price, secretary of health and human services
Source: AP, BBC, TNS Photo archives
Graphic: Staff, TNS

NEW YORK (AP)—One Cabinet member was grilled by Congress about alleged misuse of taxpayer funds for private flights. Another faced an extraordinary revolt within his own department amid a swirling ethics scandal. A third has come under scrutiny for her failure to answer basic questions about her job in a nationally televised interview.

And none of them was the one Trump fired.

President Donald Trump's Cabinet in recent weeks has been enveloped in a cloud of controversy, undermining the administration's ability to advance its agenda and drawing the ire of a president increasingly willing to cast aside allies and go it alone. Trump's ouster of Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Tuesday may have just been the first salvo in a shakeup of a Cabinet that, with few exceptions, has been a team of rivals for bad headlines and largely sidelined by the White House.

"Donald Trump is a lone-wolf president who doesn't want to co-govern with anybody and doesn't want anyone else getting the credit," said presidential historian Douglas Brinkley of Rice University. "For his Cabinet, he brought in a bizarre strand of outsiders and right-wing ideologues. Many are famed conservative or wealthy business people, but that doesn't mean you understand good governance."

The string of embarrassing headlines for Trump's advisers, as well as the president's growing distance from them, stands in sharp contrast to how he portrayed the group last year.

"There are those that are saying it's one of the finest group of people ever assembled as a Cabinet," Trump said then.

On Tuesday, the president hinted after firing Tillerson that more changes may be forthcoming, saying an ideal Cabinet is in the making.

"I've gotten to know a lot of people very well over the last year," Trump told reporters at the White House, "and I'm really at a point where we're getting very close to having the Cabinet and other things that I want."

Amid the scrutiny, Trump tweeted some praise for his team the day after Tillerson's firing, writing "five of our incredible @Cabinet Secretaries" would be appearing on Capitol Hill to testify about infrastructure

Even as Trump routinely convened Cabinet meetings in front of the cameras for "Dear Leader"-type tributes over the past year, his relationship with many of its members began to splinter.

Last summer he began publicly bashing Attorney General Jeff Sessions, a former close adviser who was the first senator to back his campaign. Furious that the attorney general recused himself from the Russia probe that has loomed over the White House, Trump has privately mused about firing Sessions and taken to delivering unprecedented Twitter broadsides against him.

Trump has used the words "beleaguered" and "disgraceful" to describe Sessions, who only recently stood up to the president and defended his recusal decision. Tillerson also frequently clashed with Trump, who never forgave the outgoing secretary of state for reportedly calling him "a moron" last summer after grumbling that the president had no grasp of foreign affairs.

The pair never developed a particularly warm relationship.

Last November, during a full day of meetings in Beijing, Trump and his senior staff were served plates of wilted Caesar salad as they gathered in a private room in the Great Hall of the People.

None of the Americans moved to eat the unappetizing dish, but Trump prodded Tillerson to give it a try, according to a senior administration official.

"Rex," the president said, "eat the salad."

Tillerson declined, despite Trump's urging.

After repeatedly undermining and contradicting Tillerson, Trump at last fired his secretary of state in a tweet. Trump in recent days has told confidants that he feels emboldened. He's proud of his unilateral decisions to impose sweeping tariffs on metal imports and to meet with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, and far less willing to put up with disloyalty around him, according to a person who has spoken to the president in recent days but was not authorized to discuss private conversations publicly.

Trump's esteem for the Cabinet has faded in recent months, according to two White House officials and two outside advisers. He also told confidants that he was in the midst of making changes to improve personnel and, according to one person who spoke with him, "get rid of the dead weight" - which could put a number of embattled Cabinet secretaries on notice.

The officials all spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal matters.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke underwent questioning Tuesday by Senate Democrats, who accused him of spending tens of thousands of dollars on office renovations and private flights while proposing deep cuts to conservation programs. Zinke pushed back, saying he "never took a private jet anywhere" - because all three flights he had taken on private planes as secretary were on aircraft with propellers, not jet engines.

Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin's days on the job may be limited after a bruising internal report found ethics violations in connection with his trip to Europe with his wife last summer, according to senior administration officials. He also has faced a potential mutiny from his own staff: A political adviser installed by Trump at the Department of Veterans Affairs has openly mused to other VA staff about ousting the former Obama administration official.

Trump has floated the notion of moving Energy Secretary Rick Perry to the VA to right the ship, believing Shulkin has become a distraction, according to two people familiar with White House discussions. They were not authorized to discuss internal deliberations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Perry, after a Senate hearing Wednesday, said he was not interested in changing jobs, adding "I am energy secretary from now until the forseeable future. Happily."

Others under the microscope:

■ White House aides deemed Education Secretary Betsy DeVos' recent appearance on "60 Minutes" a disaster as she struggled to defend the administration's school safety plan and could not answer basic questions about the nation's education system.

■ Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson came under fire last month after reports his agency was spending $31,000 for a new dining set, a purchase HUD officials said was made without Carson's knowledge.

■ Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt has faced questions about $25,000 spent on a soundproof "privacy booth" inside his office to prevent eavesdropping on his phone calls and another $9,000 on biometric locks.

■ The first Cabinet member to depart his post, Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price, resigned last fall following reports he spent at least $400,000 in taxpayer funds on private jets for himself and his staff.

Some other Cabinet members—such as Labor Secretary Alex Acosta and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue—keep a low profile and are barely heard from. National security adviser H.R. McMaster, who has faced a barrage of attacks from right-wing media outlets, has never clicked with Trump, leading to speculation that he too may soon depart.

"This is the most irrelevant Cabinet since the Carter years," said Brinkley, evoking former President Jimmy Carter, another Washington outsider who struggled to delegate authority.

A handful of Cabinet-level officials have remained in Trump's good graces.

Defense Secretary James Mattis is widely viewed as the most powerful Cabinet member, his military record commanding Trump's respect and giving him leeway to at times disagree with the commander in chief without drawing his rage. Budget director Mick Mulvaney is perceived within the West Wing as a Trump favorite, while CIA director Mike Pompeo was tapped to replace Tillerson at the State Department.

Health & Wellness

MAYO CLINIC

RENEE JONES SCHNEIDER/MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/MCT

There was a time when Georgiann Steely, 16, right, couldn't pick up a phone or knock on a door without her knees knocking and her palms sweating with anxiety. During that time she spent almost all her days in her bedroom. Her family discovered she had depression and anxiety and is now treated for it with counseling and medication. She is now part of a musical ensemble that practices at a friend's house, March 29, 2013, in Rochester, Minnesota.

For kids, avoiding risks can add to anxiety later

By JEREMY OLSON
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)/MCT

It was always the introduction for Georgiann Steely—the ringing of the doorbell, the approach to the man at the cash register—that made her palms sweat and knees knock.

As a grade-schooler, she avoided these moments—ducking her face into her wavy auburn hair and waiting for her mother to escort her into crowded rooms or order her food. And her mother obliged.

Instinctively protective, Amy Steely figured it was the lesser evil to keep her timid daughter safe and comfortable.

"I was definitely very protective and she will still say I am overprotective," said Amy, who lives in Rochester, Minn., with her husband, son and daughter, who is now 16. "It's true. I am."

The conflict of whether children should be protected from fears or pushed to overcome them is familiar to every parent who has pulled a frightened child back from a diving board or coaxed the kid to plunge. It's familiar to mental health professionals as well, who have long understood that avoiding fears is the hallmark of clinical anxiety.

But new Mayo Clinic research this month has yielded important insights on "avoidance" behaviors, showing they predict which children are more likely to suffer severe anxiety later on.

Mayo researchers asked parents how their children responded to challenges. A year later, they found higher anxiety in kids whose parents said they tended to avoid things that scared them.

"Kids who avoided tended to be more anxious, even after controlling for how anxious they were to begin with," said Stephen Whiteside, director of Mayo's child and adolescent anxiety disorders program.

The study doesn't mean that avoidance causes anxiety, or that "helicopter parenting" dooms children to therapy. The origin of anxiety is often hereditary. But doctors said the findings reinforce the need for parents to present their children with opportunities to learn resilience.

"It's OK for your child to be upset sometimes," Whiteside said. "It's valuable for them to struggle and persist. Being a good parent doesn't mean your child is always happy."

> **"Kids who avoided tended to be more anxious, even after controlling for how anxious they were to begin with."**

Understanding the warning signs of anxiety is becoming increasingly important, although it is unclear whether child anxiety is a growing problem. The popular theory is that U.S. children are more stressed these days and that anxiety is on the rise, but there is little data to support that.

The National Institute of Mental Health estimates one in four children ages 13 to 18 have suffered anxiety and one in 20 have suffered severe anxiety.

Avoidance behavior is key to detecting anxiety early when it is most treatable, said Anne Marie Albano, director of the Columbia University Clinic for Anxiety and Related Disorders. "Parents report … that their kids are not going to school dances or calling up friends. It's the avoidance that the parent observes that helps a clinician to make a diagnosis."

The signs that Georgiann had a problem emerged in high school, after her father left the Air Force and the family that had frequently moved settled in Rochester. Georgiann's shyness had been dismissed at times because she was always the new kid in school. After entering Mayo High School in fall 2011, her freshman year, it became clear her worries were holding her back.

"She would do everything she could not to be involved, but if she was involved, what you would see is somebody very withdrawn, head down, not having eye contact, not wanting to participate," her mother said.

After seeing Mayo doctors, Georgiann was diagnosed with depression and anxiety. The latter is an umbrella term that includes social phobias, general anxiety or fears of specific things such as enclosed spaces.

Georgiann started attending group therapy and participating in "exposure" therapy in which she was gradually exposed to things that made her anxious. To address her fear of engaging people, she would go into another room and call her therapist, or run to the coffee shop and work up the nerve to buy a cup.

One by one, her fears have started to melt.

Violin recitals are no longer exercises in terror. On Valentine's Day last year, she braved asking a boy in chemistry class to a turnabout dance, and lived with the "epic fail" of being turned down. She still feels bashful dialing the phone, but not frightened.

While there is no blame going around the family, there is plenty of looking back at possible opportunities to head off Georgiann's fears.

Amy Steely said her husband was every bit as protective: "I don't know when he stopped carrying Georgie around."

For her part, she knows that hardships in her childhood influenced her parenting. "I wasn't going to let those things happen to my kid," she said.

Albano said parents often feel guilt, but shouldn't harbor blame: "Some parents are very aware, especially for their older children, that they started giving in and accommodating the anxiety—letting the children sleep in their bed, letting their child take days off school. It was harmless in the moment, but then they do recognize the pattern that emerges. So parents do beat themselves up, but they're not to blame."

Her new book, "You and Your Anxious Child," helps parents differentiate anxiety from everyday stress and spot warning signs even in toddlers.

"Take your toddlers into the Mall of America. If they're not running off from you to the candy or the toy store, you need to ask yourself, 'Why are they clinging to me?'" she said. "Take a note of it and then encourage them. 'Let's take a look at the rides. Do you want to go on (one)?' There are different things parents can do that will help to encourage their kids before these things take hold."

Self-care for depression

By BARTON GOLDSMITH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Self-care for those who are depressed is very important, yet it may be the hardest thing for anyone dealing with depression to actually do. The basics of life can easily be forgotten. Even things like personal hygiene and properly feeding yourself may be difficult. Here are some tips to remind you of how to defeat your depression and get back into life.

- **Talk with someone.** This is a psychotherapist's obvious answer, but that's only because it works. When you talk about your feelings and someone you respect validates how you feel, it starts you on a path to healing. It also helps you see yourself in less limiting ways, so you can get back to being who you want to be.
- **Get out of the house.** Getting out can be hard if you feel like you don't want to be around people. That's okay for now, but at least make yourself get in the car and drive to a nice spot for a view or a place that brings you some peace. You don't even have to get out of the car. The change of scenery and the fresh air will help you heal.
- **Eat your favorite food even if it's junk food.** Don't overdo it, but allow yourself to eat whatever foods you love. Maybe the foods you love are actually good for you but you don't take the time to have them in the house. I know that eating a fresh peach makes me happy, so I make a point of eating one daily when I can.
- **Watch a comedy.** Norman Cousins, author of Anatomy of an Illness, cured himself of a serious illness by laughing at old movies. I know when you are wrapped in the cocoon of depression, you may not want to make yourself laugh. But the downward cycle must be broken, so you can get back to your life, and this is a very easy way to start.
- **Smile.** Look at yourself in the mirror and see the difference between when you express your sadness and when you smile. The act of smiling actually releases chemicals in your brain that make you want to smile more and make you feel better. Practice at home for a little, and then go to a public place and wear that smile. People will smile back, and that will make you happier.

You can't do everything on this list at once, so try one or two ideas, and see how they feel. If the results are positive, then try another. The idea here is to make your life better, and no one can do that but you. Please give it a chance. You'd be surprised at how easy it is to feel better when you let (or even make) yourself do things to help yourself heal.

Dr. Barton Goldsmith, a psychotherapist in Westlake Village, Calif., is the author of "The Happy Couple: How to Make Happiness a Habit One Little Loving Thing at a Time." Follow his daily insights on Twitter at @BartonGoldsmith

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Life & Style

Barbra Streisand says no #MeToo moment marred her life

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Barbra Streisand said she's never suffered sexual harassment but has felt abused by the media.

During a tribute to Streisand's decades of TV music specials and other programs, producer and long-time admirer Ryan Murphy queried her about her career, the #MeToo movement and her aversion to interviews.

"Never," she replied when asked if she had been sexually mistreated. "I wasn't like those pretty girls with those nice little noses. Maybe that's why."

She acknowledged the power of protests against gender inequality sweeping through Hollywood and society.

"We're in a strange time now in terms of men and women and the pendulum swinging this way and that way, and it's going to have to come to the center," Streisand said during Friday's Paley Center for Media event held at a packed theater.

Her reluctance to talk to news outlets is based on years of what she called inaccurate reporting, including one story that claimed she has an "awards room" at home dedicated to her Oscars, Emmys and other trophies. But it was the late TV journalist Mike Wallace who came in for the sharpest criticism.

Streisand said that when she was a young star (and before Wallace joined "60 Minutes"), he asked her hurtful questions during a TV interview and she called him afterward to complain. But on a subsequent show, Wallace told viewers who'd objected to his treatment of Streisand that she "loved" the interview, according to the star.

Demi Lovato celebrates 6 years sober at show with DJ Khaled

NEW YORK (AP)—Demi Lovato celebrated six years of sobriety at a concert in New York with tour mate DJ Khaled, whose powerful words brought the pop star to tears.

Lovato performed Friday night at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, telling the audience that March 15 was a proud day for her.

DJ Khaled played the role of preacher, life coach and best friend as he offered words of inspiration, motivation and admiration to Lovato, who has been open about her issues with drugs and alcohol. He told the crowd "this is a special day" and repeatedly said "happy birthday" to Lovato, as she began to tear up.

Lovato

"Every time I see you I say, 'Man, this is a strong queen,'" he said. "What you've overcome through trials and tribulations, through dark clouds, you found the sunshine, and now the sun is shining on you forever."

"You inspire me," Khaled added.

DJ Khaled and R&B singer Kehlani, another tour mate, encouraged the crowd sing "Happy Birthday" to Lovato in honor of her sixth year of sobriety.

The crowd then chanted "Demi!" as she sat down by the piano and dabbed her eyes with tissues handed to her by a crew member.

"Six years ago, I was drinking vodka out of a Sprite bottle at 9 in the morning, throwing up in the car," Lovato said. "So, I took a look at my life and I said, 'Something has to change, I've got to get sober.' So, I did."

"Thank you for being a part of saving my life. I love you guys," she added before performing the song "Warriors."

Lovato struggled with an eating disorder, self-mutilation and other issues, entering rehab in 2010. The 25-year-old has spoken out about her battles over the years, detailing her recovery in the YouTube documentary "Simply Complicated," which was released last year.

The 'force' with Mark Hamill at Dublin's St. Patrick's Day

LONDON (AP)—Mark Hamill has tweeted that "today the whole galaxy is Irish" as he appeared as international guest of honor at Dublin's St. Patrick's Day parade.

The "Star Wars" actor, whose great-grandmother was born in Ireland, was invited to represent the Irish diaspora at the celebration. Hamill spent time on Ireland's rocky Skellig Michael island filming the most recent "Star Wars" movie, "The Last Jedi."

US actor Mark Hamill gestures as he attends the St Patrick's day parade, in Dublin, Saturday March 17, 2018. AP

Hamill sported a tweed cap, a green scarf and a shamrock sprig as he attended the parade, which sees floats, colorfully clad performers and marching bands wind their way through the Irish capital.

"Game of Thrones" actor Liam Cunningham was the grand marshal of Saturday's parade, attended by Irish President Michael D. Higgins.

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar is at New York's St. Patrick's Day parade.

Being Lara Croft takes months of training, plates of protein

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It took months of training and endless plates of protein to transform former ballerina Alicia Vikander into muscle-bound action hero Lara Croft for the new "Tomb Raider" film.

The 29-year-old Oscar winner spent seven months working with Swedish trainer and nutritionist Magnus Lygdback, who also helped Gal Gadot and Ben Affleck get into superhero shape for "Wonder Woman" and "Justice League."

Lygdback and his team of fitness professionals hosted a boot camp in Los Angeles recently to demonstrate Vikander's "Tomb Raider" training regimen.

"Physically, anyone can train to be a superhero," Lygdback said.

Diet is paramount, even more than physical training, he said. He directs his clients to eat every three hours and avoid sugar and "fast carbs" like white rice and flour.

"You'll see a big change, mentally and physically, just by changing the nutrition," he said.

Vikander spent seven months preparing to become Croft. The first three were just about diet, Lygdback said. His clean-eating plan includes lots of protein and vegetables. A sampling at the "Tomb Raider" boot camp featured broccoli blossoms and seared steak. He says 17 out of 20 meals should be on point, with three splurge meals in the mix.

"I love desserts. I love chocolate. I love a glass of Barolo on a Saturday night," said Lygdback, whose Hercules-shaped form appears to have zero body fat.

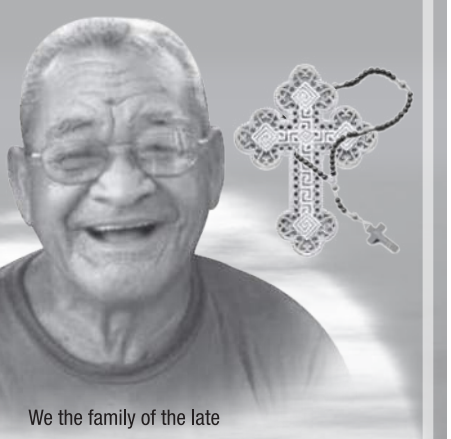
Four months ahead of filming, Vikander began working daily with Lygdback for hour-long sessions incorporating martial arts, weight training and movement education to give her a greater command of her body.

The process didn't just pack muscle onto Vikander's slender frame.

"Magnus really helped me transform for the role," she said. "And gain a sense of empowerment."

"Tomb Raider" opens Friday.

With Great Humility



We the family of the late

†Teodoro Selepeo

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to our families and friends for your expression of sympathy, love, support, and thoughtfulness you have extended to our family during our time of sorrow and grief. We thank you for your prayers and words of comfort.

To all who have helped us in one way or another, your presence, compassion, kindness and generosity will forever be remembered in our hearts.

Thanks again and God bless you.

The family

In Celebration of His New Life

JOAQUIN SABLAN TORRES

Lovingly Known as "Jack"

May 26, 1947 - March 11, 2018

In his new life, he now joins:
Parents: †William S. Torres & †Rosa S. Torres
Siblings: †Elizabeth S. Torres-Untalan & Angel Brother †Joaquin S. Torres
Nephew: †William Gerard Torres

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Loving & caring wife Dianne Verdejo-Torres (DJ, Nico, Andrei, & Lane), **and children Joseph Oldham Torres** (Jeric, Jack, Jessalyn, Aulani, & James), **Neil Howard Torres** (Kayani Kinai), and **Suzanne Marie Torres-Pangilinan** & Edward Pangilinan (Sania & Edward)

Siblings & In-Laws:
Juan S. Torres & Janet F. Torres, Children, & Grandchildren
Maria T. Persson & Jon G. Persson, Children, & Grandchildren
†Elizabeth S. Torres-Untalan & Pedro T. Untalan, Children, & Grandchildren
Ramon S. Torres & Lillian Wong
William S. Torres & Priscilla M. Torres, & Children

In his new life, Jack is remembered by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, Guam and abroad.

Eucharistic celebration is offered daily at Kristo Rai Parish Church at 6:00 a.m. from March 13 to 20, 2018.

***Responso* and Rosary will begin at 8:00 AM on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at the Kristo Rai Parish. Mass of Christian Burial will immediately follow at 10:00 AM.**

Cellist Yo-Yo Ma to speak at MIT about the role of culture

AP

In this March 2, 2018, file photo, Marjorie Keith, left, plays an impromptu duet of "God Bless America" with cellist Yo-Yo Ma at the Valencia Terrace in Corona, Calif.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—World-famous cellist Yo-Yo Ma is set to give a lecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The school says Ma will visit the campus Monday to deliver a talk titled "Yo-Yo Ma: Culture, Understanding and Survival " as part of a lecture series featuring figures in modern thought.

Ma is a prolific performer who has recorded more than 100 albums and has worked to promote collaboration among artists from different cultures.

He was born in Paris and became a child prodigy after learning the cello at age 4. He has won 18 Grammy awards, the National Medal of the Arts and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The event will feature a lecture from Ma and a conversation between the cellist and MIT President L. Rafael Reif.

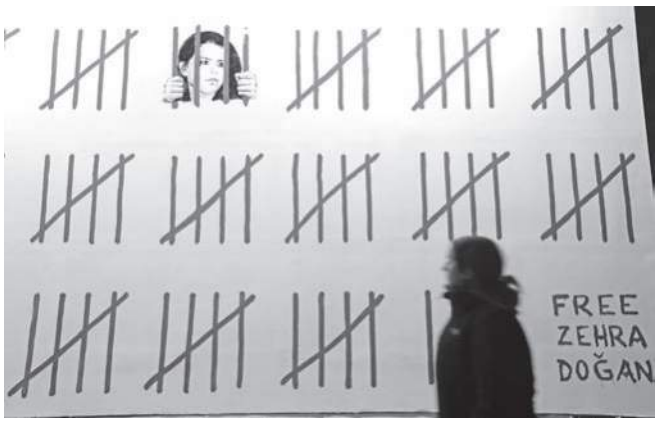
Vandal tags mural created by British graffiti artist Banksy

NEW YORK (AP)—British graffiti artist Banksy is drawing crowds to his New York City mural but for an unfortunate reason.

It seems somebody added a signature tag to his artful protest of the imprisonment of a Turkish artist and journalist.

Plenty of pedestrians were getting a look Saturday at the graffiti scrawled in red across the bottom half of his 70-foot-long mural. The mural bearing the slogan "Free Zehra Dogan" was recently installed on the Houston Bowery Wall, made famous by Keith Haring in the 1970s.

The mural protests the jailing of Dogan, an ethnic Kurd, after she painted the Turkish flag flying over the rubble of a destroyed town. Dogan was convicted last March.



AP

A person passes by part of a mural by British graffiti artist Banksy protesting the imprisonment of Turkish artist Zehra Dogan, Friday, March 16, 2018, in New York.

Banksy's mural shows her jailed behind a set of black tally marks representing her days in prison.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Theron calls idea of arming US teachers 'so outrageous'

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Actress Charlize Theron says the idea of arming teachers after recent U.S. school shootings or "adding more guns" to the situation is "so outrageous." The South African says: "I have a very personal experience with gun violence. I lost my father to gun violence." She added: "I just don't understand when people try to make the conversation, the argument that the fix is more guns. It is so outrageous to me." Theron spoke Saturday at the Global Education and Skills Forum being held in Dubai. Theron says people should "listen to our kids" to solve the problem, speaking just after three students talked about the Feb. 14 Florida school shooting that killed 17 people.

Spokeswoman: Damon not fleeing to Australia in Trump huff

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A publicist for Matt Damon is batting down reports that the actor is moving to Australia with his family, and that such a move would have been inspired by anger over President Donald Trump. The Daily Telegraph newspaper in Sydney had reported that Damon was buying a home in Byron Bay near actor Chris Hemsworth. The two recently appeared in "Thor: Ragnarok" together. Damon spokeswoman Jennifer Allen said Damon has been to Australia a lot recently. But Damon has not bought a home there nor is he relocating there, she said. The New York Post's Page Six gossip site, citing an unnamed source, said the "Good Will Hunting" and "Jason Bourne" star told friends and colleagues he wanted to leave the country because he disagrees with Trump's policies. When asked about Damon's rumored motivation, Allen wrote in an email, "He's not moving out of the U.S." Damon has publicly supported Democrats, including Trump's rival in the 2016 presidential election, Hillary Clinton.

Lawyer: Porn star who alleges Trump affair has faced threats

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A porn actress who said she had sex with Donald Trump before he became president has been threatened with physical harm, her attorney said Friday. Stormy Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, has been seeking to invalidate a nondisclosure agreement she signed days before the 2016 presidential election in order to discuss their relationship, which she said began in 2006 and continued for about a year. Lawyers for Trump, in a filing late Friday, claimed Clifford could owe more than $20 million in damages for violating the agreement. Clifford's attorney, Michael Avenatti, told The Associated Press his client had been "physically threatened," but he didn't provide details. He would not comment on whether the threats came from anyone tied to the president, the Trump campaign or the Trump Organization. Clifford will discuss the threats during a segment on CBS' "60 Minutes," which is scheduled to air later this month. Avenatti said he was confident that people would believe her after watching her interview. "There's the act and there's the cover-up, and the American people are going to learn about both in the interview and beyond," the lawyer said during an interview with MSNBC's "Morning Joe" on Friday.

Longtime addiction remains a secret in woman's past

DEAR ABBY: I am a 53-year-old woman who has finally met a kind, decent man after many abusive relationships. I honor our bond and have been open about my past, which has been colorful, to say the least.

I was an addict. It was a long addiction that left me homeless and almost killed me many times. I have kept this part of my life a secret from everyone out of shame and fear of judgment. I would love to be open about it with him and let him know how much drugs affected me, but I don't want to drive him away. Any advice is appreciated.

EX-ADDICT IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR EX-ADDICT: In one sentence you say you have been open about your past; in the next you say you are keeping your addiction and what it cost you a secret. You don't say how long you have known this man, or whether you plan to make this relationship permanent. If you do, you should tell him about your entire past because, if he finds out some other way, THAT is what could cause him to end the relationship.

DEAR ABBY: I have a problem with my family. I am a woman in my 60s who does not and never has driven a car or any other vehicle. My older sister and brother think I have leprosy because I don't drive. How can I, or anyone in the same position as I am, get through to them that not everyone drives, and that those of us who don't or can't are like anyone else on this planet?

NOT BEHIND THE WHEEL

DEAR NOT BEHIND THE WHEEL: Please clip this and share it with your sister and brother. Not everyone drives or aspires to. Some people are phobic about getting behind the wheel. Others recognize they are not good at it, while still others can't afford a car. Unless you have been imposing upon your relatives for transportation, they should not be critical of your choice.

My late mother was a nondriver. She quit after skidding into the back of a coal truck during a Wisconsin winter. I'll never forget it because it left me with a scar on my knee when it hit the air-conditioning vent. Viewed from my perspective, she made the right choice, and so have you. It's a wise person who knows their limitations.

DEAR ABBY: This may seem minor in the scheme of things, but it's driving me crazy. Occasionally we have a potluck day at work. The problem is, while there are always people who eat, others never bring food to share. It's usually the men in our office—those who hold higher positions and make far more money than the rest of us. They are also the ones who eat the most. They go back for seconds before the rest of us have eaten. If they do occasionally bring anything, it's usually a bag of chips.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

I'm tired of paying for their lunches when they are more than capable of providing something -- takeout from a deli or even asking their wives to help. I'm also tired of going to get my lunch and discovering most of the food is already gone. I would welcome your advice or any tips your readers may have.

FED UP IN DES MOINES

DEAR FED UP: Try this: Assign a list of what people need to bring to the potluck so there won't be duplication. And when you do, specify that only those who participate can eat the food.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

MY SIDE OF THE WOODS ABOUNDS IN NATURAL SCENIC SPLENDOR.
YOUR SIDE WALLOWS IN DECAY AND FILTH. MY TERRITORY IS INFINITELY SUPERIOR TO YOURS.
YOUR SIDE IS SMALLER.
HEY!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

HOOP! HOOP!
JON IS PREPARING FOR HIS ANNUAL "DANCE TO SPRING"
GUH!
AND NO, HE'S NOT STRETCHING
THIS THING GETS TIGHTER EVERY YEAR
I THINK YOU NEED TO LET OUT YOUR STEM
JIM DAVIS 3-19

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WOW. DO YOU SEE HOW NICE IT IS OUT?
I MIGHT TAKE THE DAY OFF AND CLEAN OUT THE GARAGE.
GET US READY FOR SUMMER... GET SOME FRESH AIR IN MY LUNGS.
AVOID WORKING ON THAT WORK PROJECT?
CLAYTON. HALF THE FUN OF AVOIDANCE IS THAT ITS UNSPOKEN.
3-19

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?.. THAT PIPSQUEAK DICTATOR IS THREATENING TO NUKE US AGAIN!
WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?
FOR STARTERS, WE SHOULD PUT A TARIFF ON THE NUCLEAR LAUNCH BUTTONS WE SELL HIM.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

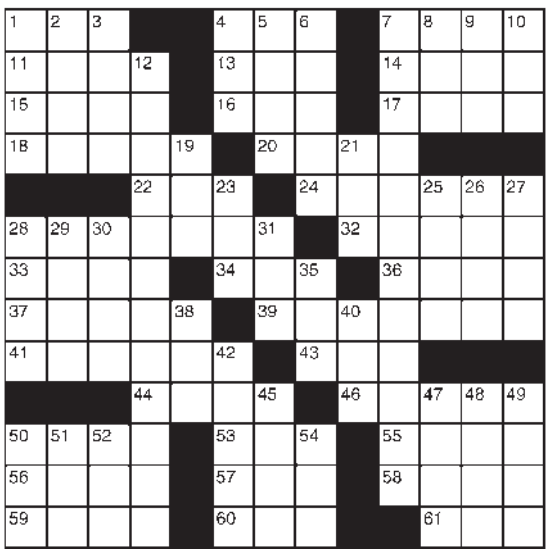
ACROSS
1 Male turkey
4 Existed
7 Tiny branch
11 Acknowledge
13 List-ending abbr.
14 Basketball target
15 Nevada city
16 Fluffy scarf
17 Billions of years
18 Bull's sound
20 Oxen's burden
22 Sportage maker
24 Excessively proper
28 Solar event
32 Chalkboard
33 Apollo 11 destination
34 Day divs.
36 Sketch
37 Grammarian's concern
39 Chess ploys
41 Moves like a crab
43 Thee, today
44 Radius neighbor
46 Perfectly timed
50 Utah national park
53 Diamond arbiter
55 Corn castoffs
56 Apple computer
57 "For shame!"
58 Dickens' Uriah
59 Ancient invader
60 New Deal pres.
61 Parched

DOWN
1 Old salts
2 Pizzeria fixture
3 Stereo alternative
4 Charlotte's creation
5 On
6 Overcharge for tickets
7 1969 Sam Peckinpah Western
8 Romance
9 Charged bit
10 Family docs
12 Midday meal with the boss, perhaps
19 Bit of advice
21 Hosp. areas
23 Blond shade
25 Rani's wrap
26 Sports figure?
27 Evergreens
28 Outback birds
29 "— fan tutte"
30 Cargo
31 Work unit
35 Utter
38 Slithery fish
40 Cattle call
42 Tobacco type
45 During
47 Dorm designation
48 Taxi alternative
49 Catch sight of
50 Sharp turn
51 "As I see it," in a text
52 Granola morsel
54 For each

Solution time: 26 mins.

S	P	O	H	I	■	S	'	H	■	A	L	B
G	E	N	I	E	■	W	E	E	■	T	A	I
'	R	A	C	E	■	O	N	A	L	A	R	K
■	■	W	A	N	I	O	N	■	U	R	G	E
N	A	H	■	Y	F	S	■	S	P	I	F	D
E	L	■	S	■	C	H	E	R	■	■	■	■
A	S	M	L	C	F	■	N	A	N	O	O	K
■	■	■	B	A	S	I	N	■	O	N	E	I
N	U	B	B	Y	■	G	U	S	■	A	D	D
A	L	D	E	■	S	U	I	'	E	D	■	■
O	N	A	D	A	T	E	■	E	L	I	S	E
M	A	I	■	M	A	S	■	E	L	E	C	I
'	R	S	■	P	X	S	■	P	A	T	H	S

Last Friday's Answer 03-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: AJ Lee, 31; Bruce Willis, 63; Glenn Close, 71; Ursula Andress, 82.

Happy Birthday: Look for an opening. If you continue to bang on doors that are closed, it will be difficult to let go of the past. Look for something positive and you'll find a way to put your attributes to good use and achieve a goal that is satisfying as well as helpful. With acceptance comes change, and with change comes new beginnings. Your numbers are 8, 15, 22, 26, 34, 47, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Go about getting what you want in a progressive but realistic manner and you will ward off opposition and disagreements. Being willing to compromise and work with instead of against others will provide you with consistency and timely successes. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Refuse to stand by silently when you can make a difference. Let your experience and knowledge help you determine the best course of action. Own a piece of the future by being a participant in life, love and maintaining peace. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look for new ways to put your skills to good use. Relying on others to help or to do something for you is a waste of time. Look on the bright side when dealing with loved ones, commitment and pursuing your dreams. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't mistake someone's help as a nice gesture. You'll be expected to do something in return if you accept such generosity. Do what you can on your own, and be willing to pay for anything over and above. ✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make changes for the right reason. If you want to improve your life, that's one thing, but altering your life to avoid someone you don't like won't solve the problem. Face unsavory matters and put them behind you. Be a leader. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Smile, be social and you'll gain the confidence of others. Getting a better understanding of the people you deal with daily will help you show more compassion as well as offer better solutions to those you want to see excel. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take it slow and steady. You won't find it easy to get along with partners, family or anyone who holds assets with you. Stick to whatever jobs you are given and say little until you have a fair solution to offer. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pull together and work alongside people trying to reach the same objective. There is power in numbers, and if you really want to make a difference and bring about change, unite and make an impact. Engage in truth, equality and unification. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do your part and you'll have no problem. However, if you shirk responsibility or avoid emotional situations that are in question, someone will expect you to voice your opinion. Keep the peace but don't lie to sidestep controversy. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The broader picture will give you better insight into what's going on and who you should be in alliance with. Know your capabilities, and don't give in to someone pushing you to conform to offers that are unrealistic. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Remembering the past will help you ward off a dilemma. Only consider a joint venture that shows legitimate promise to pay off. Offering to help others is a nice gesture, but make sure you get something in return. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A positive move will encourage you to save as well as to renegotiate your position in your personal and professional life. Knowing what you want will be half the battle. Once you recognize your calling, things will begin to happen. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are opportunistic, helpful and persistent. You are progressive and ambitious.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5		6			8	
		3	5	1				7
1	9				2			
	3		8			2		
4	8						3	5
		6			1		9	
			4				5	8
9				3	7	1		
	4			5		6		

Difficulty Level ★ 3/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

3	6	4	8	7	1	5	2	9
1	5	7	2	3	9	4	6	8
2	9	8	6	4	5	7	3	1
6	2	5	9	1	3	8	7	4
9	4	3	7	8	6	1	5	2
7	8	1	5	2	4	3	9	6
5	7	2	1	6	8	9	4	3
8	3	9	4	5	2	6	1	7
4	1	6	3	9	7	2	8	5

Difficulty level ★★★★ 3/19

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

PATTERNS Solution: 5 letters

E	S	T	N	E	L	U	B	R	U	T	S	Y	S	S
T	L	T	I	L	I	N	G	S	A	E	E	R	L	E
A	E	E	R	S	K	C	A	R	C	V	N	T	A	K
L	R	S	M	I	C	T	T	N	A	A	S	E	I	A
P	P	G	S	E	P	A	C	E	A	W	E	M	R	L
M	E	A	Y	E	N	E	W	A	D	L	S	M	E	F
E	D	O	T	L	L	T	S	A	R	A	Y	Y	P	W
T	O	M	(I)	T	E	L	S	C	S	T	M	S	M	O
A	C	A	I	(K)	E	P	A	L	I	E	S	N	I	N
P	R	C	S	T	(A)	R	A	T	L	E	L	B	A	S
E	A	A	N	I	A	(T)	N	A	I	A	N	I	A	M
S	B	I	S	D	C	A	R	L	E	O	R	C	O	O
T	L	L	I	A	M	I	C	O	N	S	N	O	E	T
R	E	A	R	O	P	A	I	N	T	I	N	G	L	I
Y	L	F	R	S	T	R	U	C	T	U	R	E	D	F

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Abstract, Analysis, Argyle, Barcode, Basket Weave, Camo, Celtic, Cracks, Elements, Floral, Fractals, Icons, Ikat, Imperial, Lintels, Manmade, Motif, Painting, Paisley, Pattern, Radial, Roman, Science, Senses, Snowflakes, Spiral, Stripes, Structured, Symmetry, Tapestry, Tartan, Template, Tessellation, Tilings, Toile, Turbulent, Wave

Last Friday's Answer: Voltage

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Day in, day out

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-OVR-068

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 12, 2018 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) POWER WHEELCHAIRS FOR THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGUALR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RGITH TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ARLENE KAY A. YAMAGATA
DIRECTOR OF OVR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP18-CHCC/FACILITY-006

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 02, 2018 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES FACILITIES-COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED–UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP18-CHCC/HOSPITAL-007

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 02, 2018 TIME: 9:00AM

"MEDICAL MALPRACTICE INSURANCE – HOSPITAL – COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

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Make A Wish Saipan Tribune

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(1) DIESEL ENGINE MECHANIC
Have knowledge
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Call 323-2916/898-4489
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Philpan International Inc.
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At Least 3 yrs Experience
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Contact No. 783-0367

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Closing Date: March 20, 2018

(3) Barber
(4) All-around Beautician
(1) Business Operations Manager
(1) Sales/Accounting Clerk
(1) Air-con Technician

Interested applicants,
please send resume to
MANTRADE COMPANY, INC.
P.O. Box 506118, SAIPAN, MP 96950

V-KOOL
Marianas USA LLC
is looking for

Window film installer "Film Specialist": 2 Positions (SAIPAN)
- Considerable knowledge of the industrial practices of adhesive window film installation.
- Ability to work with varieties of window films and window glass surfaces and must not afraid of height.
- Ability to work independent with minimum supervision.
- Salary: Negotiable

3A'S POLYSHINE
Home of 'V-KOOL'
is looking for

UPHOLSTERER: 2 Positions (SAIPAN)
- Considerable knowledge of the practices and methods of upholstery works, and the use of machinery and equipment for upholstering.
- Ability to make upholstery and other repairs to furniture and interior of vehicles.
- Good knowledge of upholstery materials selections.
- Salary: Negotiable

Special consideration will be given to any individual who is eager to pursue a professional career as a Upholsterer.

Submit a typed resume or call 670-235-8938 to arrange for an interview before or on **MARCH 29, 2018.** Interview will be conducted from 30th March 2018 at 3A'S POLYSHINE, CK, Beach Road.

www.saipantribune.com

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Building Maintenance Repairer
8 years minimum work experience required in building maintenance including finishing carpentry, masonry, plumbing installation, tile laying, wood staining and varnishing, plastering, and other maintenance duties as assigned. Knowledgeable in basic building design, construction, and repair. Must have valid CNMI driver's license and transportation. Pay is minimum wage.

Interested applicants may contact 287-9170 or send resume, police clearance, and references to RJR Co. at rjrco@yahoo.com

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859 • Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. GEORGE R. RABAULIMAN, Defendant.
) Civil Action No. 16-0222
) **AMENDED SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, GEORGE R. RABAULIMAN:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT FOR FORECLOSURE, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within Twenty (20) Days after service of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950 , or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your Attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint for Foreclosure.

Dated on this 21st day of November, 2017

/S/ Cherk of Court/Deputy Clerk

Pastime III BOAT FOR SALE

Hatteras 60 convertible
Year 2002
Twin Engine Caterpillar 3412
1000 HP
Price: $500,000.00 NET

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The position is responsible for the installation, maintenance, and repair of electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Candidates should have knowledge in the maintenance field, possess excellent communication and organizational skills, and the ability to work flexible hours. Interested applicants must have a high school diploma/ GED or its equivalents; Completion of a craft apprenticeship or an equivalent number of years of education and production maintenance experience is preferred not required; Two or more years of strong hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical, industrial, and electrical skills with some HVAC experience is a plus.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

This position is responsible for computing, classifying, and recording numerical data to keep financial records complete. Interested and qualified candidates should be highly motivated with strong communication and organizational skills and be proficient in MS Excel. Some practical work experience in finance is desired; Accounting background is preferred not required.

Interested individuals who meet the above requirements should submit their resume no later than Friday, March 23, 2018. Resumes may be submitted to the attention of IP&E Human Resources Department via:

Office: Corner Puetto St. and Industrial Drive Commercial Port Saipan, MP 96950
Email: HumanResourceTeam@ipehq.com
Mail to: PMB 1009 Box 10000
Saipan, MP 96950

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Three (3) Senior Sales and Marketing Representative
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree (may be foreign educational equivalent) and two (2) years of experience as a Sales and Marketing Representative for a wholesale company with a minimum of 550 sales items.
Duties: Sells and markets company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Contacts regular and prospective customers to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Displays and/or demonstrates products and suggests products that meet customers' needs. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts. May sign purchase orders, and collect payment from customers. Ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Arranges for delivery of products to customers. Assists Sales Manager in identifying prospective customers, monitoring market conditions and monitoring competitors' products and prices.

Two (2) Sales Representative
Minimum Qualifications: Associates degree (may be foreign equivalent) and two (2) years of experience as a sales representative for a wholesale company with a minimum of 550 sales items.
Duties: Sells company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Meets with customers in order to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts and may collect payment from customers. Ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Arranges for delivery of products to customers.

One (1) Sales Consultant
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree in marketing or marketing management (may be foreign educational equivalent) and two (2) years of experience as a Sales Consultant.
Duties: Sells and markets company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Contacts regular and prospective customers to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Displays and/or demonstrates products and suggests products that meet customers' needs. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts. May sign purchase orders, and collect payment from customers. Ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Arranges for delivery of products to customers. May do deliveries of merchandise to Customers when exigencies and circumstances require. Consults with customers after sale of products to resolve any issues and provide continuing support. Assists management in identifying prospective customers and monitoring competitors' products and prices. Performs other related duties.

Two (2) Product Demonstrators
Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma (may be foreign equivalent) one (1) year of experience as a product demonstrator or merchandiser/product demonstrator
Duties: Conduct product demo and explain products to customers. Set up props, demo materials and supplies and arrange displays or demonstration areas for prospective customers. Transport, assemble, and disassemble materials used in presentations. Prepare or alter presentation contents to target specific audiences. Prepare products and give samples to customers to try/test. Provide product information and suggest specific product purchases to meet customers' needs. Sell products being promoted and keep records of sales. Re-stock store shelves to replenish products sold following product merchandising procedures. Contact salesmen to replenish merchandise and assist in selling and delivery of merchandise. Perform other related duties.

One (1) Bookkeeper
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree in Business Administration (any major) or Associate's degree in Accounting (degrees may be foreign equivalent), two (2) years of experience as bookkeeper, and one (1) year experience using QuickBooks or other accounting software program(s).
Duties: Records company's wholesale business transactions and retains all accounting records. Posts, verifies and reconciles accounts payables, accounts receivables, expenses, payroll and other ledger accounts. Prepares preliminary financial reports by collecting, analyzing and summarizing account information. Prepares payroll and payroll taxes and distributions to government. Prepares gross receipts tax returns. Documents business transactions and verifies purchase orders and other financial transactions in order to substantiate the transactions prior to settlement. Maintains and reconciles bank accounts. Uses QuickBooks accounting software program in performing job duties.

One (1) Computer Programmer
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree in computer programming or two (2) year course in computer programming (may be foreign educational equivalent) and two (2) years of experience as a computer programmer.
Duties: Conduct trial runs of programs and software applications to be sure they will produce the desired information and that the instructions are correct. Maintain computer programs or software packages to handle specific jobs such as tracking inventory, receivables, etc. and storing or retrieving data. Perform or direct revision, repair, or expansion of existing programs to increase operating efficiency or adapt to new requirements. Consult with managerial personnel to clarify program intent, identify problems, and suggest changes. Perform systems analysis and programming tasks to maintain and control the use of computer systems software as a systems programmer. Consult with and assist computer operators or system analysts to define and resolve problems in running computer programs. Investigate whether networks, workstations, the central processing unit of the system, or peripheral equipment are responding to a program's instructions.

One (1) Graphic Artist
Minimum Qualification: Four (4) years of experience as a graphic artist for wholesale company with a minimum of 550 sales items.
Duties: Designs and creates visual products to meet company's promotional needs, including designing and creating promotional displays and marketing brochures, signs and signage systems, packaging, menus, and other visual products. Formulates visual marketing campaign and overall design concepts for company to reach target markets. Applies critical thinking and problem solving analysis to various design concepts and approaches that can be utilized to attain the desired effect on the target market. Creates innovative design solutions utilizing knowledge of graphic design theory and methodologies in conjunction with current cultural trends, market demographics, cultural preferences, and seasonal shifts to achieve optimum market response. Produces and coordinates the execution of mock-up and final graphic design and artwork for the visual products.

One (1) General Maintenance and Repair Worker
Minimum Qualifications: One (1) year vocational certificate in building systems mechanics (any field and may be foreign equivalent) and two (2) years of experience as a building systems mechanic (any field).
Duties: Maintenance and overall upkeep of the civil structures of the warehouse and the company's buildings. Maintenance and repair of facilities' plumbing and sewer systems; air conditioning systems including installations and upgrades; electrical systems including new connections and upgrades; office equipment such as computers, tablets, printers, copiers and telephones; maintenance and upkeep of the refrigeration equipment such as commercial beverage coolers; vehicles; and auxiliary generators. Performs other related duties as assigned by supervisor.

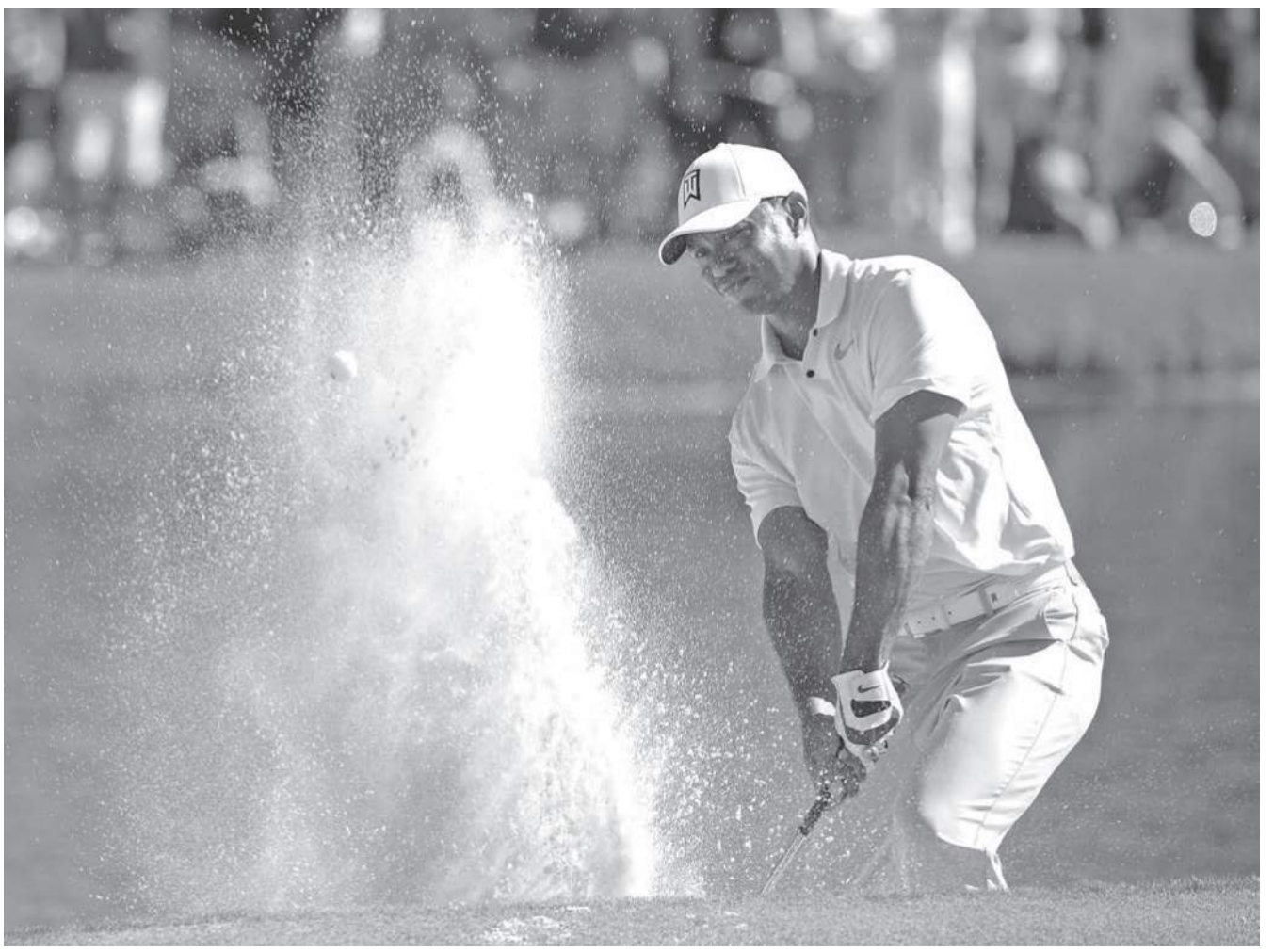
One (1) Assistant General Maintenance and Repair Worker
Minimum Qualification: One (1) year vocational certificate in building systems mechanics (any field and may be foreign equivalent).
Duties: Maintenance and repair of facilities' building systems including, but not limited to, electrical systems, including new connections and upgrades; air conditioning systems, including installations and upgrades; office equipment such as computers, tablets, printers, copiers and telephones; and maintenance and upkeep of the refrigeration equipment such as commercial beverage coolers, vehicles, and auxiliary generators. Performs other related duties as assigned by supervisor.

One (1) Building Custodian
Minimum Qualification: One (1) year of experience as building custodian
Duties: Keeps buildings and business premises in clean and orderly condition. Performs cleaning duties, such as cleaning floors, washing walls and glass, and removing rubbish from inside and outside of business premises. Performs routine maintenance activities and notifies management of need for repairs. Requisition supplies or equipment needed for cleaning and maintenance duties.

One (1) Sales/Delivery Driver
Minimum Qualification: Two (2) years of experience as a Sales/Delivery Driver or sales associate.
Duties: Sells and delivers company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Writes customer orders and sales contracts according to company guidelines. Collects money from customers, make change, and records transactions on customer receipts. Records sales and delivery information on daily sales or delivery record. Listens to and resolves customers' complaints regarding products.

If interested, send resume to Western Sales Trading Company by email to bello.lumintegar@yahoo.com or by fax at 670-322-9408. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within three days of hire.

Woods remains in contention at Bay Hill



AP
Tiger Woods hits out of a bunker onto the 17th green during the third round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament Saturday, March 17, 2018, in Orlando, Fla.

ORLANDO —For the second consecutive day, Tiger Woods faced a predicament on the 520-yard, par-5 16th hole at Bay Hill.

This time sand and the lip of a fairway bunker posed the biggest threats instead of the deep, thick rough the day before. Oh, and the water hazard fronting the green some 185 yards away had his attention, too. And as was true in each case, any chance to win the Arnold Palmer Invitational hung in the balance.

Woods pulled off both shots and made birdie each time.

And he still is on the fringe of contention.

"I went in there with sand wedge initially just to lay up," Woods said Saturday after he signed for a 3-under-par 69. "But as I looked at it, if I started that ball a little bit right of the flag, the lip was a little bit lower and I'm like, 'OK, well, right now I'm as far back as I am. I can take a chance, but at least I had a little bit of room to the right side."

Woods said when he returned for his latest comeback at the Hero World Challenge in December, he wouldn't have been able to hit the shot. But with a stronger body and more feel in his hands, there was no hesitation to give it a go.

As he did the day before, when he dug a 5-iron out of the heavy rough, Woods reached the green in two and putted for eagle. Each time he needed two putts to walk off with a birdie. Each time produced a mini fist-pump.

"I had to flush it in order to get it there," Woods said. "I had 205 to hole. Now if I had to hit a cut out of there I couldn't do it, the lip was a little too close. So luckily, I had a little bit of room to the right and decided to try and pull it off and pulled it off. I went ahead and tried to pull it off and I hit a good one.

"It felt good."

Woods is going to have to be very good if he is to win his record ninth title in the tournament. After rounds of 68-72-69, he's 7 under and tied for 10th, five shots out of the lead set by Henrik Stenson, who has shot 64-69-71. That's a big ask.

Now add the caliber of players between him and the lead, including world-class guys like Rory McIlroy, who is two back, Justin Rose, who is three back, and Rickie Fowler, who is four back.

"I'm within reach if I shoot a really, really low round tomorrow," said Woods, who ended his round with another birdie on the 18th, one of six he made on the day to go along with three bogeys. "Maybe a low one tomorrow will give me a chance to kind of steal one from behind."

Whether he runs down the leaders or not, Woods will leave Bay Hill with another solid advancement in his comeback and would have two weeks to prepare for the Masters in April.

Woods, who finished second last week in the Valspar Championship, his best finish since 2015, said he has progressed far enough that his hands are telling him what he can do with his swing. He is comfortable once again with the cadence of playing pro golf, having made four starts in the last five weeks.

But he said he's still not completely back.

"I still feel like I'm coming back," he said. "I'm still getting used to what my body can do, shots I'm hitting and playing, competing again. It feels good to be back out there."

His expectations remain tempered—for now.

"I'm just happy to be back playing again, competing, grinding out there and trying to work my way up the board, work my way around the golf course," the winner of 79 PGA Tour titles and 14 majors said. "It feels good to be able to finally understand and feel that I can get into a round again.

"I'm not really thinking as much as I was initially. I'm just playing shots, playing the holes, playing angles, where to miss the golf ball, all these things are becoming more intuitive. It's great to be back our here."

Cardinals sign Justin Pugh to 5-year contract

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)—The Arizona Cardinals have signed free agent offensive lineman Justin Pugh to a five-year contract.

The 6-foot-5, 311-pound Pugh—who has plays guard or tackle—spent the past five seasons with the New York Giants, where he started 63 games. Pugh was a first-round draft pick—19th overall—out of Syracuse in 2013. The deal is worth $45 million with an average $9 million annual salary.

He said at an introductory news conference Saturday that he was drawn by "the culture" of the Cardinals.

"The culture that they have, the culture they had going on, the way they run this facility and program, I had no idea," Pugh said. "So, to come out here and meet them. I was blown away. I'm an East Coast guy, born and raised in the Northeast, went to Syracuse, been playing in New York for five years. I was a little bit nervous coming out West. They put me at ease."

The 27-year-old lineman has started 36 games at right tackle, 26 games at left guard and one game at left tackle. He said he expects to play guard with the Cardinals, probably on the right side.

He is the second offensive lineman the Cardinals have added in free agency. The team signed former Cincinnati tackle Andre Smith to a two-year contract on Friday.

Pugh finished last season on injured reserve with a back injury that did not require surgery. But he said he expects no problems in that area.

"I wasn't concerned with it at all," he said. "I went to Dr. (Robert) Watkins, who is probably regarded as one of the top back specialists in the country, and to hear it from him what I have going on, nothing structurally, no surgery required. It was a muscle thing."

He said he probably tried to come back from the injury too soon and that landed him on injured reserve.

Pugh went to college with Arizona All-Pro outside linebacker Chandler Jones. He said both vowed to be drafted in the first round when they were at Syracuse and both were.

Pugh acknowledged one concern about moving to the desert.

"Snakes," he said. "I was like `Tell me I'm not going to have rattlesnakes on my front yard, and I'm good. I don't mess with snakes."

In New England, the Patriots bolstered their pass rush and backfield depth with the free agent signings of defensive end Adrian Clayborn and running back Jeremy Hill on Saturday.

The Patriots also announced the signing of veteran offensive tackle Matt Tobin.

Clayborn, 29, played the past three seasons with the Atlanta Falcons and is coming off a career-high 9+-sack season in 2017. The seven-year veteran has 30 sacks over 81 games with Atlanta and Tampa Bay.

New England had 42 sacks in 2017, tied for seventh-most in the NFL.

Hill, 25, is entering his fifth NFL season after spending his first four with the Cincinnati Bengals. A former second-round draft pick out of LSU, Hill played in only seven games in 2017 before suffering a season-ending ankle injury.

Over his first three seasons, Hill had 2,757 rushing yards and 30 touchdowns in 47 games.

Hill joins a Patriots backfield that includes James White, Mike Gillislee and the recently re-signed Rex Burkhead, who was Hill's teammate for three seasons in Cincinnati.

New England lost last season's leading rusher Dion Lewis to Tennessee in free agency.

Tobin, 27, spent last year with the Seattle Seahawks after playing his first four NFL seasons with the Philadelphia Eagles. The former Iowa standout entered the league as an undrafted free agent in 2013.

A's Cotton to miss season with Tommy John surgery

OAKLAND (AP)—Jharel Cotton had planned to build off a promising rookie campaign for the Oakland Athletics.

He'll have to wait another year.

The 26-year-old righty will undergo elbow surgery and not pitch in 2018, a setback for a young club trying to improve on a last-place finish.

"It's tough. I'm missing the 2018 season with my boys, so it's kind of hard to take. I'm trying to take it as best as I can and just get ready for the long process, the long road that's ahead," Cotton said Saturday.

Cotton had been diagnosed with a sprain and had a second scan Friday, then was told he would need Tommy John surgery.

Cotton was 9-10 with a 5.58 ERA average in 24 starts. This spring, he had a 3.75 ERA in four exhibitions, striking out 16 in 12 innings.

"Unfortunate. Just of him having to go through what a lot of guys have to go through," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "But we felt like he was on the cusp of really coming into his own and it's going to be delayed a year, unfortunately."

The A's figure to go into the 2018 season with Kendall Graveman, Sean Manaea and Daniel Mengden in the rotation. Paul Blackburn and Andrew Triggs also have made starts in spring training games, as has prized prospect A.J. Puk.

Meanwhile, Philadelphia Phillies right-hander Jerad Eickhoff is expected to miss six to eight weeks with a strained lat muscle.

Eickhoff was 4-8 with a 4.71 ERA last season and spent time on the disabled list with back and hand injuries. He was slated to be part of Philadelphia's rotation.

Manager Gabe Kapler said Friday that Eickhoff got hurt during his previous outing against Pittsburgh on March 9. The Phillies signed 2015 NL Cy Young Award winner Jake Arrieta earlier in the week and general manager Matt Klentak said he plans to fill Eickhoff's void from within.

Zach Eflin, Ben Lively, Mark Leiter Jr. and Tom Eshelman are candidates to replace Eickhoff in the starting rotation.

LeBron gets 33 points in triple-double, Cavs beat Bulls

CHICAGO (AP)— LeBron James scored 33 points as part of a triple-double, Jordan Clarkson had a tie-breaking four-point play with 1:27 left and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Chicago Bulls 114-109 on Saturday night.

James had 12 rebounds and 12 assists for his 15th triple-double of the season, and Jeff Green added 21 points. Clarkson finished with 19 points to help the Cavaliers salvage a six-game split on their season-high six-game trip.

Denzel Valentine led Chicago with a career-high 34 points, hitting 8 of 11 from long range. The Bulls wiped out a 17-point halftime deficit even though they held out banged-up core players Lauri Markkanen, Zach LaVine and Kris Dunn, only to come up short in the closing minutes.

Cleveland coach Tyronn Lue spent the second half in the locker room with an illness, another hit for an already short-handed team.

Warriors 124, Suns 109

In Phoenix, Quinn Cook scored 16 of his career-high 28 points in a dominant third quarter for Golden State, Draymond Green narrowly missed a triple-double and the severely depleted Warriors handed Phoenix its eighth straight loss and 23rd in 25 games.

Nick Young added 20 for the Warriors, who beat Phoenix for the 13th consecutive time despite playing without Stephen Curry (ankle), Kevin Durant (ribs) and Klay Thompson (fractured thumb) -- a trio that averages a combined 73 points per game. The Suns didn't have leading scorer Devin Booker due to a right hand sprain.

Wizards 109, Pacers 102

In Washington, Bradley Beal scored 19 points, Marcin Gortat had 18 and Washington beat Indiana in a possible playoff preview.

Washington earned its second straight win to move into a tie with Indiana for fourth in the Eastern Conference standings. The Wizards also claimed the first tiebreaker by taking two of three in the season series.

Washington went 10 for 20 from 3-point range and shot 54.8 percent from the field overall.

Rockets 107, Pelicans 101

In New Orleans, James Harden had 32 points and 11 rebounds, and Houston won for the 21st time in 22 games by beating New Orleans.

Harden's highlights included his usual array of explosive drives and pull-up jumpers, including a 27-foot, straight-on 3 that put the Rockets up by nine with 1:31 left.

Chris Paul added 21 points and Clint Capela had 13 points and 11 rebounds for the Rockets, winners of four straight since their 17-game winning streak ended against Toronto.

Spurs 117, Timberwolves 101

In San Antonio, LaMarcus Aldridge had 39 points and 10 rebounds, and San Antonio overcame a sluggish start to beat Minnesota.

San Antonio won its third straight to remain seventh in the Western Conference five days after dropping to 10th and out of playoff position.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 23 points and nine rebounds for Minnesota.

Trail Blazers 100, Pistons 87

In Portland, Damian Lillard had 24 points, eight assists and seven rebounds, and Portland beat Detroit for its 12th straight victory.

CJ McCollum added 16 points for the Blazers, who have the longest current winning streak in the league. It's the longest streak for the franchise since it also won 12 in a row in 2002.

Andre Drummond had 18 points and 22 rebounds in Detroit's 12th consecutive road loss. Blake Griffin had 15 points.

Bucks 122, Hawks 117

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 33 points and 12 rebounds, Khris Middleton added 23 points and Milwaukee held on for a win over Atlanta.

The Bucks finished off the Eastern Conference's worst team with a game-ending 11-5 run, pushing the pace after the Hawks lost ball-handler Dennis Schroder. The guard fouled out with 2:46 left, and was called for a technical foul after exchanging words with an official on the way to the sideline.

Middleton hit the free throw that started the run. The Hawks looked rushed on their next two possessions with a turnover and a blocked shot, allowing the Bucks to brush past them.

Jazz 103, Kings 97

In Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell scored 28 points, and Utah beat Sacramento for its ninth straight victory.

Rudy Gobert had 22 points and 13 rebounds for Utah, and Ricky Rubio added 14 points, nine rebounds and five assists. The Jazz won for the 21st time in their last 23 games.

Sacramento lost to Utah for the third time this season despite shooting 14 of 21 from 3-point range. Buddy Hield scored 23 points, and Bogdan Bogdanovic finished with 12.

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James, right, drives to the basket against Chicago Bulls guard Denzel Valentine during the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, March 17, 2018, in Chicago.

Knicks 124, Hornets 101

In New York, Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 25 points and New York snapped a nine-game losing streak with a win over Charlotte.

New York had five players in double figures in its highest scoring game of the season. Frank Ntilikina had 15 points, Trey Burke scored 14 and Troy Williams finished with 13.

The Knicks outscored the Hornets 42-17 in the third quarter. Charlotte was just 4 of 23 from the field in the period.

Nets 114, Mavericks 106

In New York, Rondae Hollis-Jefferson scored 23 points, D'Angelo Russell had 22 and Brooklyn recovered after blowing a double-digit lead to beat Dallas.

DeMarre Carroll had 19 points and 12 rebounds, and Caris LeVert and Joe Harris each chipped in 11 points for the Nets, who snapped a three-game skid.

Dallas rookie Dennis Smith Jr. scored 21 points but left with 3:30 remaining in the third quarter after spraining his left ankle.

Grizzlies 101, Nuggets 94

In Memphis, Dillon Brooks scored 24 points, Tyreke Evans added 20 and Memphis snapped a 19-game losing streak with a victory over Denver.

Wayne Selden scored 16 points for Memphis by hitting 6 of 7 shots, including 4 of 5 from outside the arc. Marc Gasol added 14 points as Memphis won for the first time since Jan. 29.

Nikola Jokic led the Nuggets with 17 points and 12 rebounds, while Jamal Murray finished with 16 points on 5-of-18 shooting. Denver shot just 37 percent overall and 27 percent from 3-point range.

Poole's buzzer-beating sends Michigan to Sweet 16

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)— Michigan freshman Jordan Poole drained a long 3-pointer at the buzzer after Houston squandered a chance to lock up a spot in the Sweet 16, giving the third-seeded Wolverines a heart-stopping 64-63 victory in the second round of the NCAA Tournament on Saturday night.

Devin Davis had a chance to seal the win, but the Cougars' gritty forward missed a pair of foul shots with 3.6 seconds left. The Wolverines (30-7) called timeout to set up a final play, and Muhammad-Ali Abdur-Rahkman found Poole on the wing, and the shot hit nothing but net.

The officials reviewed it to make sure, but Poole had clearly gotten the shot away.

Abdur-Rahkman and Moe Wagner scored 12 points apiece for Michigan, but it was the unheralded freshman who stole the show. Poole's flair for the dramatic earned coach John Beilein's team a trip to Los Angeles for a West Regional semifinal against North Carolina or Texas A&M next week.

Rob Gray scored 23 points and Davis finished with 17 for the Cougars (27-8), who were trying to reach their first Sweet 16 since the last of the Phi Slama Jama teams went to the Final Four in 1984.

They just about did it.

Davis gave the Cougars the lead when he made two free throws with 44.1 seconds left. He pushed the advantage to 63-61 when he made the second of two more foul shots with 24.9 seconds to go.

Abdur-Rahkman and Charles Matthews came up empty at the other end for Michigan, and Davis pulled down a crucial rebound, and then stalked to the foul line.

The senior forward missed both.

The down-to-the-wire outcome was hardly surprising given the way the rest of the game went. There were 17 lead changes and 12 ties, including 28-all at halftime.

Texas Tech 69, Florida 66

In Dallas, Keenan Evans keeps making big plays, extending Texas Tech's season -- and his time with second-year head coach Chris Beard.

They have another game with the Red Raiders headed to the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16 for the first time since 2005.

Evans, who treats every game like senior night and doesn't want to be done, scored 22 points and hit a tie-breaking 3-pointer with 2 1/2 minutes left as third-seeded Texas Tech beat Florida.

"As clock runs down, you look at it like, `I don't want my season to be over.' These guys are the same way," Evans said about the other Tech seniors.

Gonzaga 90, Ohio State 84

In Boise, Zach Norvell Jr. had 28 points, Rui Hachimura added 25 and Gonzaga reached the Sweet 16 for the fourth straight season.

Norvell hit the late tiebreaking 3-pointer against UNC-Greensboro in the opening round to help the Zags (32-4) advance. The confident freshman made 6 of 11 from beyond the arc against Ohio State.

The Bulldogs jumped out to a big early lead, withstood a second-half Ohio State charge and made the big plays down the stretch to earn a spot in the West Region semifinals against the Xavier-Florida State winner in Los Angeles.

GSM remains unbeaten in SBL

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kevin Kapileo pitched a complete game and Franco Nakamura drove in three runs in Go See Mark's thrilling 8-7 win over the Falcons in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Thursday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield.

GSM remained unbeaten with the slim victory, clinching its fifth straight win and the solo lead in the 10-team field, while handing the Falcons their first loss in five matches.

Kapileo allowed six hits with all of the Falcons' runs unearned, while striking out nine and walking none. He pitched three shutout innings despite giving up a triple to Bradley Lieto in the second. Giovanni Mira and A.J. Evangelista were the only Falcons batters that had two hits against Kapileo with the former going 2-for-5 with three runs and the latter hitting 2-for-3 with one run after a bunt single in the fifth.

Falcons' third baseman J.J. Lifoifoi was the other batter that recorded a hit against Kapileo, as the former made an infield RBI single in the seventh to bring home Mira.

The rest of the Falcons went 0-for-27 against Kapileo with seven batters striking out.

Nakamura, meanwhile, only went 1-for-5 with his lone hit a bases-clearing triple at bottom of the fifth. He also scored a run in the same inning.

After Dung Lieto retired Manny Sablan, he gave up consecutive walks to Pat Alepuyo and Vince Cepeda before allowing a single to Diego Camacho to load up the bases and set up Nakamura's bases-clearing triple.

Cepeda had two RBIs after going 2-for-3 with a run and a double, while Camacho went 2-for-2 with one run. Sablan and Pete Tomokane also drove in a run each. Byron Kaipat went 2-for-5 with one run, while Alepuyo had a double on a 1-for-3 batting and scored twice.

Meanwhile, today's game will have the Blue Jays taking on Titanium at 7pm, while GSM shoots for win No. 6 against the luckless Indians tomorrow.

Kiss My Ace beats Watch & Learn in Rocball finals

The championship game in the 2018 Roball League between Watch & Learn and Kiss My Ace took two days to complete.

There were four sets played and KMA "juiced-out" by the end of the fourth set, 65-45. In Rocball's set of rules, a team can win a game if it outscored its opponents after four sets of play and won the fourth set.

KMA prevailed in the first set, 18-14. Watch & Learn won the second set, 15-14. KMA was leading in game points, 32-29, after the second set. In the third set, Watch & Learn had a hard time coordinating its plays. KMA, on the other hand, came out strong and steady, scoring a three point goal, making a two point backcourt play, and earning two two-point ace to help them take set three, 15-3.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kiss My Ace players pose with their championship trophy after beating Watch & Learn in the 2018 Rocball League at the Marianas High School court last week.

In the fourth set, KMA stumbled around with three penalty serves and was trailing Watch & Learn, 9-11. Then Alexiana Tyquiengco smacked in two consecutive aces that put KMA back in the lead, 13-11. Watch & Learn was able to tie the game at 13-all, but couldn't score off its serve. KMA was scoring off Watch & Learns serve, but couldn't close the set out because it had a hard time scoring off its own serves. Finally, Troy Ngirarois brought the game to its conclusion and gave KMA the title with an ace.

In the heavy hitting category, where players score more than just one point per play, KMA and Watch & Learn were evenly matched with 11 two-point aces each, one jammed serve each, and two two-point backcourt plays. However, KMA prevailed as it scored three three-point goals and Watch & Learn failed to make a goal. ***(PR)***

Morocco bid: $16 billion for 2026 World Cup venues, infrastructure

RABAT (AP)—Morocco would need to spend almost $16 billion to prepare to host the 2026 World Cup, with every proposed stadium and training ground built from scratch or renovated, the bid said Saturday.

With less than three months to go until the FIFA vote, the north African nation presented the first significant details of its proposal to take on the joint bid from the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The North American bid plans to rely on existing infrastructure, including large NFL stadiums already hosting events.

For the first time, a high-risk bid that does not meet FIFA's expectations on facilities and profit can be disqualified before the governing body's congress votes on June 13.

When FIFA officials score the bids , infrastructure—of which half relates to stadiums—will account for 70 percent of the panel's mark. The remaining 30 percent is based on projected costs and revenues.

For $3 billion, Morocco said it can build nine stadiums, refurbish five others and build or renovate 130 training grounds. That is part of the $12.6 billion in public investment that also requires hospital services being upgraded in 20 cities and transport networks improved for the World Cup after the jump from 32 to 48 participating nations.

The bid said another $3.2 billion of private investment is required to build hotels containing around 30,000 rooms.

Morocco's bid team told The Associated Press the projections had been "carefully costed" but could not provide a breakdown on how the figures were reached.

Nine new stadiums are planned, including a 93,000-capacity home for the national team in Casablanca that would stage the opening game and final in 2026.

Stadiums would also be built in Oujda (45,600) and Tetouan (45,600), organizers said. New arenas to fit around 46,000 fans are planned in Casablanca, Marrakech, El Jadida, Meknes, Nador and Ouarzazate with the intention of downsizing them to unspecified capacities after the World Cup.

The five existing stadiums that need upgrading are in Marrakech (95,565), Agadir (46,048), Fez (46,092), Rabat (46,500) and Tangier (65,000).

Morocco has mounted four unsuccessful World Cup bids, most recently for the 2010 tournament, while the United States was host in 1994 and was beaten in the vote for the 2022 event.

CNMI-LED

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ciding third set, Schorr was in danger of losing the match when Tran posted a 4-2 advantage. However, according to Oceania Tennis Federation, the 15-year-old broke his opponents serve at 3-4 in the third with a brilliant drop volley to even the set, then held serve, and broke again for the first rubber en route to a come-from-behind 6-4 triumph.

Schorr's tough performance was followed by Mainguy's 6-1, 6-3 convincing win over Le Khanh Duy Tu to hand Pacific Oceania the finals berth opposite Pakistan and a ticket to next month's tournament in Malaysia. Vietnam averted a shutout loss when Thai Nguyen Tat and Tran prevailed against Schorr and Song in the doubles match, 6-2, 6-1.

In the finals against Pakistan last Saturday, the eventual champions won the deciding doubles match to top the 14-team tournament. Huzaifa Abdul Rehman and Muhhamd Shoaib defeated Mainguy and Song, 6-1, 6-1. Earlier in the Singles 2, Mainguy tied the finals at 1-all when he swept Shoaib, 6-4, 6-3, Pakistan took the 1-0 lead when Rehman outclassed Schorr, 6-0, 6-1.

Pakistan moved into the finals after ousting Bangladesh and hosts Sri Lanka in similar scores, 3-0. Vietnam went on to join Pakistan and Pacific Oceania in the Top 3 after slipping past Sri Lanka in the consolation game, 2-1.

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all participants.

All competitors received finisher's medals and shirts, while the Top 3 were in each age group were also recognized at the awards ceremony.

Participants in the U8 were the first to go around the course that featured a 50-meter swim and one loop each in the bike and run legs, while U12 entries had a 100m swim and two loops each in the bike and run portions. It was an organized chaos as parents and adults cheered the children from start to finish or from the swim to the run leg of the race.

For the 13-16 age group, most of the participants were Agape Christian School students. The division had a 750m swim around Paupau; a 20K bike from the beach heading toward Seafix, going to Banzai, and back to the starting line; and 5K run from Paupau to Ayuyu Drive and back to Paupau.

Several adults also had their first try of the Tagaman sprint course with some competing individually and others joining a three-member team relay.

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Cruz had singles.

McDonald went 2-for-3 with three runs, while Atalig, who was walked twice, had three RBIs after going 2-for-2 with a double and two runs. Pangelinan went 2-for-3 that included an infield hit with an RBI and one run.

Deandre Cruz pitched five innings—4 1/2 innings in relief—and was tagged with two earned runs on four hits with nine strikeouts and three walks before being replaced by Jeremiah Suel at the top of the sixth.

Suel quickly closed out the game after he forced Ezra Ada to ground out to first then retired Fridoline Hocog and Jesse Stole, respectively.

Stole went 2-for-3 with a leadoff triple in the third and an RBI double in the fourth for Bank of Saipan and scored four times.

Braves 12, Cubs 7

Joel Borja tossed four steady innings, while Jylan Sablan drove in three runs in the NSA Braves' victory over the Cubs.

Borja allowed two runs—both earned—on four hits, while striking out eight and walking four. He went 2-for-3, making an infield hit and a bunt single and scoring twice.

Sablan had a two-RBI single in third and drove in a run in the first on a 2-for-3 batting with two runs. He then closed out for the Braves and gave up one earned run on no hits with six strikeouts, including a 1-2-3 inning in the sixth.

Angel Igitol had a double, two runs, and an RBI after going 2-for-4 for the Braves.

Little Legals 22, Twins 5

G-Boy Pangelinan had a two-RBI triple in a big nine-run binge for the Little Legals in the second inning against the As Matuis Twins. He went 2-for-3 and scored two runs.

Benji Palacios, meanwhile, had a two-RBI triple in the fourth and scored three runs after going 2-for-2, while Derrence Diz went 3-for-3 with two RBIs and three runs.

Jon Diaz pitched four innings for the Little Legals and allowed one earned run on four hits, while fanning eight and walking four. Palacios tossed the last two innings with no hits and six strikeouts and one walk.

Agape: Learning values, lessons through sports

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
An Agape Christian School runner celebrates his 10K finish during the 2018 Saipan Marathon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Agape Christian School students pose with their medals after the awards ceremony for the 2018 Saipan Marathon held last March 10 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipa beachside.

Agape Christian School encouraged its students to engage in spots, not to win medals, but more than that.

"We want our students to learn values and lessons by playing sports," said Agape principal Jimeian Pang, who assisted their over than 50 students that participated in this month's Saipan Marathon.

Five Agape students won in their respective age groups in the 50K, full marathon, half marathon, 10K events of the March 10 competition, while others had respectable finishes in their division.

"Winning is good, but learning things after winning or losing are better. We're happy to see out students win in competition, but we are more than happy to see them become a better person, a better student," said Pang when asked why Agape almost always participates in sports events, particularly in running competitions on Saipan.

"Through sports, they learn teamwork, gain confidence, become humble, and get stronger," Pang said.

Pang explained that most of Agape students are from off-island and when they first came to Saipan, they were very timid and wanted to be left alone. However, as the days go by and they are exposed to sports and other activities, they are improving, learning to work together with their classmates and are eager to perform better both in academics and sports.

"You have to believe me when I say our students seldom get sick because they are too active in sports. Even though we have P.E. classes twice a week, we feel they are not enough, so we encourage are students to join sports whether it's within the school or in the community," the Agape principal said.

William Chen was among the Agape students who won in the half marathon race this month—a feat he achieved despite having difficulties throughout the race.

"I am a bit injured and it was really hard to do the race. But, when I looked at my shirt, I am wearing Agape uniform, so I don't want to quit for my school. I am proud to represent the school and in every sport we join, our school reminds us not to quit, but instead work hard," said Chen, who was the top finisher in the boys 15 to 19 age group's half marathon.

Peter Wang did the longest race—the 50K—and he prevailed in the 15 to 19 division, too, thanks to the support of his fellow students and Agape officials.

"I would not be able to do it if not for the help of my teammates and our school officials during the training and the race itself," the 17-year-old Wang said

Majority of Agape students who raced in this year's Saipan Marathon placed in the middle of the pack and some were at the last batch of finishers, but Pang said the students are moving on and do not mind if they missed winning a medal.

"In sports, you do not always win. You fall down, but get up and move on to try your best to perform better the next time. Our students learn these lesson after joining sports competitions and they can also apply these in life once they are out of our school and ready to start another journey," Pang said.

Over 800 complete races in Saipan Marathon

The 2018 Saipan Marathon 2018 held last March 10 was the largest ever, attracting 931 registrants with 811 making it to the finish line on race day.

The turnout included 390 runners from The Marianas, 195 runners from China, 146 runners from Korea, 126 runners from Japan, 10 runners from Guam, and four runners from Taiwan.

"Saipan Marathon 2018 was really all about 'more' this year," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "More advanced planning by our Community Projects team allowed our off-shore offices to conduct more promotions. Registration became more accessible through our first-ever online registration. And thanks to more sponsorship, we gave out more cash prizes than ever! It was a tremendous success!"

Over $22,000 in cash prizes were distributed at the awards ceremony held that evening at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan beachside.

Masayuki Abe of Japan repeated his 2017 winning form to lead the men in the 50K course (3:30:27), while hometown favorite Mamiko Berger (4:10:02) led the women's. Each runner ran away with $4,000 cash and other prizes.

Noriyasu Oda (3:37:51) of Japan topped the men's bracket in the full marathon, while Heather Taylor (3:43:27) of The Marianas led the women. Each earned $3,000 and other prizes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan's placid western lagoon frames a runner cruising along Beach Road during the 2018 Saipan Marathon 2018 held early this month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Japan's Genta Saito crosses the finish line first in the half marathon course of the 2018 Saipan Marathon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Kyoungbae Kim, Euihyun Han, and Yena Lee of Korea enjoy the view during the 2018 Saipan Marathon.

Genta Saito (1:22:48) of Japan made a quick victory in the half marathon before catching a flight a few hours later to return home. Noriko Jim (1:45:38) of The Marianas put on the best show in the women's bracket. Each took home $1,000 cash and other prizes.

Sungchang Park (00:37:45) of Korea blitzed his way to top the 10K course, while compatriot Yunmi Lee (00:45:46) led the Women. Each won $500 and other prizes.

Additional prizes were awarded for the Top 6 overall finishers of each course and the top finisher in each age category. Prizes were also given for the Craziest Hair, Best Costume, Most Awesome Shoes, Shortest Shorts, and Ugliest Shoes.

The marathon was certified by the International Association of Athletic Federations through the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races.

Major sponsors this year were Delta Airlines, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, DFS Saipan Limited, and Northern Marianas Athletics.

Aid stations were manned by Mariana Resort & Spa, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Aqua Resort Club, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Imperial Pacific Int'l, Pacific Development Inc., Tasi Tours, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Kanoa Resort, Saipan World Resort, IT&E, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The event was also supported by Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Fire & Emergency Medical Services, Dept. of Public Works, Dept. of Public Lands, Div. of Parks & Grounds, Saipan Mayor's Office, Hawaiian Rock Products, and Marianas Health Services.

Woods remains in contention at Bay Hill

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

LeBron gets 33 points in triple-double, Cavs beat Bulls

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TRAC introduces triathlon to youngsters

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Triathlon Association of the CNMI revived the Taga Kids last Saturday with more than 30 youngsters signed up to test their mettle in the multisport event at Paupau Beach.

Official times were not recorded since the race aimed at giving kids a taste of triathlon in a fun and non-competitive environment. The race was divided into the 5-8, 9-12, and 13-16 age groups with the course just around Paupau Beach to ensure the safety of

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JON PEREZ
Taga Kids finishers pose for a photo at Paupau Beach last Saturday.

CNMI-led Pacific Oceania makes grade

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Pacific Oceania Junior Davis Cup captain Jeff Race and players Ken Song, Clement Mainguy, and Robbie Schorr pose for a photo during the opening ceremony for the 2018 Junior Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Pre-Qualifying Event in Colombo, Sri Lanka last week.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Oceania advanced to the championship game in the 2018 Junior Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Pre-Qualifying Event held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The team, which is made up of CNMI junior players Robbie Schorr and Ken Song and Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy and coached by Jeff Race, played in the finals after eliminating Kuwait, 3-0, and Vietnam, 2-1. The twin victories in the playoffs also gave the CNMI-led Pacific Oceania Team a slot to the 2018 Asia/Oceania Qualifying Finals that will be played in Kuching, Malaysia from April 9 to 14. Joining Pacific Oceania in the competition in Malaysia was Pakistan, which nosed out Schorr and company in the pre-qualifying even finale, 2-1.

Pacific Oceania, which swept Bangladesh and Lebanon in pool play, extended its streak when it shut down Kuwait in the quarterfinals last Thursday, 3-0. Schorr started the squad's domination of Kuwait after beating Ali Alshatti in the Singles 2 game, 6-2, 6-3. Pacific Oceania went on take the early win in the Round of 8 and marched into the semis after Mainguy rallied past Bader Antar in Singles 1, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1. Schorr then returned to the Sri Lanka Tennis Association clay court and teamed up with Song in downing Mohammad Alqattan and Alshatti, 6-3, 7-5.

Up next for Race's crew was Vietnam and this time, Schorr, who took only two sets in beating his previous opponents, went the distance before escaping with the victory.

The Commonwealth player won the opening set of his Singles 2 duel against Quang Truong Tran, 6-3, but failed to wrap up the match early when the Vietnamese recovered in the second, 4-6. Then in the de-

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4th-inning scoring surge lifts Pirates vs BoS

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Pirates used a seven-run fourth inning in earning an 11-5 win over Bank of Saipan in the Majors division of the 2018 Saipan Little League last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

BoS changed pitchers twice in the pivotal inning with Damarlane Sanchez coming in to relieve starter Greg Perez, while Jesse Stole replaced the former a few batters later.

Charles McDonald led off the Pirates' rampage with a single and moved to second on a Perez wild pitch before reaching home plate on a Joshua Atalig RBI double. Atalig later scored on a D.J. Pangelinan RBI single. McDonald, Atalig, Pangelinan, and M.J. Elieisar all batted twice in the fourth, while Joey Dela Cruz and Deandre

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JON PEREZ
The Pirates' Charles McDonald, right, crosses home plate during their game against Bank of Saipan in the Majors division of the 2018 Saipan Little League last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.